

Press Clippings 12/05/19

---Daily Herald---12/05/2019

Middle-schooler in serious condition after Elgin shooting; police appeal for information

By: Diane Dungey

A location was incorrect in previous versions of this story.

A 14-year-old girl shot outside an Elgin elementary school was in serious condition but stable Wednesday as police canvassed the area in search of clues, and schoolchildren were kept indoors.

The girl, a student at Ellis Middle School in Elgin, was a passenger in a moving vehicle near Lowrie Elementary School, near Washburn and Billings streets, at about 4 p.m. Tuesday as shots were fired from at least one other vehicle toward a third vehicle, police said.

Police said on Facebook that the girl was not the intended target, and a man who was in the car with the girl is cooperating with police.

A letter sent to Lowrie School families said students were kept indoors Wednesday.

"Out of caution for the safety of our students and staff, we conducted an indoor lineup this morning and provided extra staff presence to support students during arrival and will do so again at the end of the day. In an abundance of caution, we will not hold any outdoor recess today," said the letter, which was distributed in English and Spanish and signed by Principal Tiffany Robinson.

The letter, and a separate one to Ellis Middle School families signed by Principal Yvette González-Collins, said extra counselors were sent to both schools on Wednesday.

"We are here to help and assure students that police are investigating the matter and that our school remains a safe place," the letters said.

Elgin police said detectives from the Special Investigations Group are investigating. Anyone with information should contact Sgt. Lesko at (847) 289-2528 or send an anonymous text to 847411 and include ElginPD in the beginning of the message.

---The Patch---12/05/2019

Elgin Police Seek Info On Drive-By Shooting

A 14-year-old girl was seriously injured in the shooting, which occurred Tuesday afternoon near an elementary school.

By: Rebecca Bream (Hughes), Patch Staff



Elgin police are investigating after a 14-year-old was hit during a drive-by shooting near an intersection outside Lowrie Elementary School Tuesday.

ELGIN, IL — The Elgin Police Department is continuing to ask for the public's help as they try to track down more information regarding a drive-by shooting that occurred near an elementary school Tuesday afternoon and left a teenage girl seriously injured. The 14-year-old girl was found injured in car at the intersection of Highland Avenue and State street after officers responded to reports of gunshots being fired from at least one car toward another car nearby at 4 p.m. Tuesday, according to a post on the Elgin Police Department Facebook page.

Multiple residents called to report the shooting to police after shots were fired near the intersection of Washburn and Billings street, which is near Lowrie Elementary School, according to authorities.

The 14-year-old girl was taken to an area hospital with serious injuries and is listed in stable condition, authorities said Wednesday. Police said the teen wasn't the intended target and the shooting doesn't appear to be a random act. A man that was in the car with the teen is "cooperating with investigators," police said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, police are continue seek more information on the shooting. On Wednesday morning, officers conducted another canvass of the area where the shooting occurred and returned again on Wednesday afternoon as police hope to find new information that will lead them to any persons of interest or suspects.

"We are also utilizing all technological resources we can identify," according to a post Wednesday on the Elgin Facebook page.

Elgin police ask anyone who might have any information that may help in the investigation to please contact Sergeant Lesko at 847-289-2528, or send an anonymous text to 847411 and include ElginPD in the beginning of the text.

---WLS---12/05/2019

Girl, 14, seriously injured in shooting near Elgin elementary school

By: Will Jones

ELGIN, Ill. (WLS) -- A 14-year-old girl was in a car near an Elgin elementary school when she was shot and seriously injured Tuesday.

Elgin police said the girl was a passenger in a vehicle driving near Lowrie Elementary School, at the intersection of Billings and Washburn streets, when someone fired shots from a passing car, hitting her. A man in the car with the 14-year-old was not injured, but the girl remained in serious condition Wednesday. She attends Ellis Middle School in Elgin.

Elgin resident Marylou Moser said she lives near where the shooting occurred.

"I heard three loud pops that seemed to be right outside here and a car take off, going east on Washburn," Moser said.

Lowrie Elementary parent Alex Hernandez heard what sounded like shots, too.

"It's just devastating," he said. "It's a shame that these things have to happen, especially near a school."

Police said the girl was not the intended target.

"The shooting does not appear to be a random act," Elgin Police Chief Ana Lalley said Wednesday. "Detectives from our special investigations group continue to investigate the incident and have conducted another canvas in the area this morning. We will also be returning later this afternoon."

She said police were working to determine the intended target.

There was increased security at the elementary school after the incident, and parents were notified, Elgin District U-46 officials said. The shooting did occur about an hour and a half after students were let out.

"We ushered students into the school immediately (Wednesday), rather than have them line up outside of school," district spokeswoman Mary Fergus said. "And we did not have an outdoor recess today at the elementary. We'll do that for however long students and staff and the community feels it's necessary."

But the shooting does have community members worried.

"I have my little sister, who attends the school, my mother works in the school, her godmother works as a secretary at Lowrie elementary, so it's just a little scary," Stephanie Marquez said.

The man who was with the girl when she was shot is cooperating with police. No one was in custody Wednesday.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---12/05/2019

Larkin claims 7th straight Crossface Classic from Elgin

By: Mike Garofola

Larkin stayed perfect in the early part of the wrestling season after its 54-16 victory over rival Elgin Wednesday night.

With the win, the Royals (4-0) claimed the Crossface Classic trophy for the seventh consecutive season over its crosstown rivals.

"I know Elgin was a little short-handed tonight (but) still was a good win for the guys and our program," said Earl Danan in his first year as Royals head coach.

The home side went ahead for good (18-16) following an Alan Young 8-2 decision at 145 pounds, then used 24 straight points from forfeits to break open this UEC dual en route to the third time it has scored 50 points or better.

"If we can continue to work hard in the room, stay healthy, and keep our focus, there's no reason why this team cannot compete for a conference championship," said Royals senior Alan Facio, who along with another senior, DJ Deajuan Atkins, won 30 and 31 a year ago on their way to a second straight sectional appearance.

"For me, I've spent a lot of time lifting, and getting fit, and if I stay confident and take one match at a time, I feel like I can get downstate and have a chance at a medal," said Facio, who is now 4-0 on the season.

The visitors stayed close in the early stages of the night, and would actually take the lead at 16-15 after a Jared Godinez pin at 138.

"If you take away all of the points we gave away to forfeits, it was 13-10 in our favor," said Maroons coach Mark Woollard. "The effort tonight in our first meet of the year was very good -- especially from Brian Rea at 126, who overcame a slow start to get himself a well deserved major.

"Allan (Liquigan) at 132 was solid, Jaret's pin at 138 was fantastic, and Chris Santana (152) did well despite his loss. We'll get better as we go on, and especially after we fill some of the open spots in our lineup."

The Royals received victories from Gavin Clark at 132, and two others from Alex Young (145) as well as Juan Reyes' 8-0 shutout at 220.

"Clark as a sophomore has been very good technically so far, while Alex, who was named captain, has really stepped up in our first four duals," said Danan.

Clark, Young and Zamudio are all 4-0 thus far.

Larkin will host Fenton this Friday, while the Maroons entertain East Aurora that same night.

Croft caps South Elgin's 21-point comeback win over St. Charles North

By: Craig Brueske

South Elgin girls basketball coach Dan Mandernack recorded a milestone with his 100th career victory following Tuesday night's 49-46 comeback victory over Glenbard South.

There is little doubt that Mandernack will long remember his 101st victory, too.

Trailing by as many as 21 points late in the first half, the Storm (5-1) still found themselves behind St. Charles North 43-29 after 3 quarters.

After putting together an 11-0 spurt to trim the deficit to 46-42 with 3:21 remaining, the Storm finished the game with 7 consecutive points over the final 51 seconds to pull out a 53-52 nonconference victory Wednesday night in South Elgin.

Sophomore guard Caroline Croft's driving layup with 10.7 seconds left wound up as the game-winner -- a shot that ironically gave South Elgin its first lead of the night.

"I knew they (North Stars) had to take away the shooters or come and help take away me," said Croft, who finished with 8 points and 3 steals. "I decided to drive, I got an open lane and I was able to finish.

"It feels great to come back and win like that."

The improbable rally didn't seem possible when the North Stars (4-2) led 31-10 with 2:20 left in the second quarter.

Junior forward Tatum Settelmyer scored 12 of her game-high 23 points in the first half as the North Stars opened a 34-17 halftime advantage.

"Their defense was outstanding in the first half," said Mandernack, whose team also lost the services of senior guard Aryanna Williams to a knee injury late in the opening quarter.

"She's the heart and soul of our team and our leading scorer right now. When Ary got hurt, you could tell it deflated us. We had to regroup."

With his team down by 17 at halftime, Mandernack hung on to some hope.

"I felt it was still reasonable," he said. "I was almost ready to tell them, 'Let's win the second half by 1 or 2 points.' I said it and then I said, 'Forget it, we're going to come back and do this.'"

Sophomore guard Ella Winterhalder led the Storm with 19 points, while seniors Madison Waichunas and Megan McClure added 8 and 7 points, respectively.

"They refused to lose," said Mandernack. "I got my 100th win last night but this has to be the craziest one."

Playing without seniors Caroline Jakaitis, Leilauni Chanthaboury and sophomore guard Emma Ludwig, the North Stars received solid contributions from Talia Pellegrini (8 points, 4 assists), Alyssa Hughes (8 points, 4 rebounds) and Emma Nawara (6 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals).

"We got up about 20 and said, 'We're good -- we can put it on cruise control,' and that's frustrating," said North Stars coach Mike Tomczak. "In the end, I put it on me as a coach. We have a rule here -- under 3 (3-point loss) on me. We'll coach better next time.

"The fourth quarter was rough. I want to give them (Storm) credit. They played hard and hit some big shots."