

Press Clippings 12/14/19 to 12/16/19

Press Clippings 12/16/2019

There are no U-46 related news stories.

Press Clippings 12/15/2019

There are no U-46 related news stories.

---Daily Herald---12/14/2019

U-46 schools mark holiday season with activities, charity events

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Second-grader Caylee Acevedo tells Santa that she wants a dog for Christmas. Parents got a chance to have lunch with their kids and then meet Santa at Washington Elementary School in Elgin Friday.



First-grader Genesis Martinez smiles at her mom Leslie Bustillo as parents got a chance to have lunch with their kids and then meet Santa at Washington Elementary School in Elgin Friday.

Gingerbread houses, breakfast with Santa, singalongs, concerts, a winter wonderland, food drive and lending a helping hand to local community organizations.

That's how Elgin Area School District U-46 students and employees are celebrating the holiday season with activities and charitable efforts planned throughout this month.

On Friday, Washington Elementary parents had lunch with their children, visited with Santa and stopped at a book fair at the Elgin school.

Upcoming events include:

- Breakfast with Santa, 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at Lords Park Elementary, 323 Waverly Drive, Elgin, and a multicultural night, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18.
- Holiday toy drive for Hanover Township all month long at Prairieview Elementary, 285 Mayflower Lane, Bartlett, and a holiday sing at the Bartlett High School Auditorium, 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16.
- Posada (Mexican Christmas celebration), 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary, 510 Franklin Blvd., Elgin.
- Spring Trail Elementary winter concert, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, at Bartlett High School.
- Holiday shop, Monday through Thursday, Dec. 16-19, during school hours at Timber Trails Elementary, 1675 McDonough Road, Hoffman Estates.
- Giving Tree presents for local families in need through Wednesday, Dec. 18, at Wayne Elementary, 5N443 School St., Wayne, and collection of items and packaging of holiday meals for families in need throughout the month.
- Winter jazz concert, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Larkin High School, 1475 Larkin Ave., Elgin.

- Winter orchestra concert, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St., South Elgin.
- Holiday concert, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, at Streamwood High School, 701 W. Schaumburg Road, Streamwood.

SPORTS

---The Courier-News---12/15/2019

Damari doesn't demur

Wheeler-Thomas delivers at free-throw line as Larkin picks up 1st victory

By: Paul Johnson



Larkin's Damari Wheeler-Thomas drives against West Chicago's Jacob Lim during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Elgin on Friday.



Larkin's Fernando Perez Jr. passes the ball while West Chicago's Christian Krahenbuhl defends.

The odds were all going against Larkin heading into Friday night's game, and senior point guard Damari Wheeler-Thomas knew it.

The Royals are a young team, with four sophomores and a freshman in the rotation. They're gaining experience the hard way — at the varsity level.

And senior forward Jashon Johnson-Neals was still out with a hand injury.

As fate would have it, Wheeler-Thomas ended up with the ball in key spots down the stretch as Larkin escaped with a 55-50 Upstate Eight Conference victory over West Chicago.

Wheeler-Thomas, a two-year varsity starter, hit five free throws in the fourth and also assisted on the only field goal of the quarter for Larkin (1-8, 1-2), which clinched its first win of the season.

“I just calmed down and focused up,” he said. “It definitely boosts our confidence because we’ve lost a lot of close ones this year. We’re going to try to keep it rolling from here.”

Larkin jumped ahead by as 16 points, taking a 34-18 lead with 5:25 left in the third. Fernando Perez Jr. hit three 3-pointers as part of a 13-1 spurt to start the quarter.

“Perez stepped up,” Larkin coach Deryn Carter said of the third. “He’s been sick. He wasn’t even supposed to be at school. He fought through it. I thought he readjusted at halftime and made some huge plays.”

West Chicago (0-7, 0-3) chipped away at the lead, however. The Wildcats put together a 15-1 burst to force a 44-44 tie with 2:15 left in the fourth.

Larkin turned the ball over 26 times, including 11 in the fourth, giving the Wildcats the extra possessions they needed to get back into the game.

“We have to handle the pressure more, that’s the biggest thing,” Wheeler-Thomas said. “We had a lot of turnovers down the stretch. Our offense turned into their offense.”

The young Royals regrouped as Wheeler went 5-for-6 from the line and Jamarion Stubbs went 4-for-4, pushing the lead to 53-48 in the final seconds.

“We had three games where we did a lot of really good things in the fourth quarter and lost,” Carter said. “I’ll take this, not doing a lot of good things but doing enough to win.

“When you’re dealing with playing four sophomores and a freshman, I don’t want to give them excuses, but experience is experience. They have to learn somehow. I’m proud of the way they responded for sure.”

Christian Krahenbuhl led West Chicago with 13 points. Jacob Lim added 11. Wheeler-Thomas led all scorers with 22 points for Larkin. Perez had 11.

Carter was happy with the win, but he also was pleased with how his team reacted in the locker room. The Royals were upset about how they finished the game.

“That was a pleasant surprise, the vibe in the locker room from the young guys,” Carter said. “It’s a big win. People are going to think we’re crazy, but I think we still have a chance to win the league.”

---Daily Herald---12/14/2019

Streamwood runs past South Elgin

By: Jerry Fitzpatrick

Sophomore guard Richard Santiago calls Streamwood's style of run-and-gun basketball "super fun."

Streamwood coach Kent Payne calls the frenetic pace "exhausting, for the kids and the coach."

After host Streamwood bolted to the early lead and cruised to an 82-69 Upstate Eight Conference win Friday, South Elgin coach Brett Johnson described the Sabres' one-pass-then-shoot approach as "hard to prepare for."

Streamwood (3-4, 1-1) led 16-9 after a quarter and 34-22 at halftime after holding South Elgin (3-4, 1-1) to 7-of-23 shooting. The Sabres took the lead by forcing 12 first-half turnovers and winning the rebounding battle 23-15.

"We just came out wanting to win more than them," said Streamwood junior Jakobe Strong.

Johnson couldn't dispute that point after the Sabres grabbed 11 first-half offensive rebounds and forged a 12-point cushion.

"This was the first game that we as coaching staff don't feel like the effort was completely there for all four quarters," Johnson said. "The first half it wasn't. It was lackadaisical. If we give effort, I think we're in this game at the end but it took a whole half to get to that stage."

The Sabres, who score 74.3 points per game, finished with five players in double figures. Junior guard Zach Marquez led the way with 17 points, including three 3-pointers. Strong scored 16 points and hauled down 16 rebounds. Santiago sank three 3-pointers en route to 16 points. Junior guard Kyle Maybrun had 15 points. Senior guard Lorenzo Coney contributed 11 points and 8 rebounds.

The Sabres hit the boards relentlessly. They grabbed 41 rebounds to South Elgin's 31. The offensive rebounds turned into second chances. The defensive rebounds sparked the running game.

"We like to go fast," Strong said. "We don't have an offense. We like to score fast-break points, get the ball and go."

The Storm outscored Streamwood 48-47 in the second half, but the Sabres answered every mini-run with points. They shot 14 of 28 from the field after halftime.

"The second half we came out really strong," Marquez said. "We just had to pick that energy back up from the beginning of the third quarter, play as a team, play for each other and hustle. And we got the win."

South Elgin sophomore forward Kendis Wiley led all scorers with 24 points. He led the Storm with 11 rebounds. Junior John Aaron Wafford scored all 13 of his points in the second half. Sophomore Drew Cwik scored 12 points on 4-of-15 shooting.

South Elgin pulls away from Streamwood for 6th straight win

By: John Lemon

South Elgin and Streamwood both found reasons to celebrate following their Upstate Eight Conference matchup Friday night.

For the Storm, they left Streamwood with a 61-44 victory, their sixth in a row, placing four players in double figures.

For the Sabres, they had a chance to honor senior point guard Mandy Mien, the school's all-time leader in assists, who scored her 1,000th point in her previous game Tuesday at East Aurora.

Streamwood coach George Rosner presented Mien with a game ball and made a brief announcement following the game. She scored 17 points -- nobody else had more than 6 -- and is the ninth player in school history with 1,000.

"Very proud of her," Rosner said. "I think that's a pretty neat achievement to be a 1,000-point scorer and far and away the assist leader. She's a great player."

"It means a lot hitting that milestone," Mien said. "It's been an honor really. My teammates have helped me reach this point and I'm thankful for them."

For awhile Streamwood (0-8, 0-4) looked like it could play spoiler against South Elgin (9-1, 4-0). Mien assisted on a pair of baskets by Vivian Sumoski that kept the Sabres within 12-11 after the first quarter.

Mien made a pair of free throws midway through the second quarter as Streamwood trailed 19-18. But the Storm ended the first half on a 9-1 run, then started the third quarter with the first 9 points to break the game open.

Mien's layup ended the 18-1 surge but by that time the 1-point game had become a 37-22 margin. The spread only grew from there as 19 Sabres turnovers in the first three quarters proved costly.

"At halftime we were kind of down on ourselves but we picked it up with that press," South Elgin sophomore Ella Winterhalder said.

"Coach said the first few minutes (of the third quarter) were really vital and we had to put it away early. We really picked it up."

Winterhalder led South Elgin with 20 points and 4 steals. Madison Waichunas, Caroline Croft and Megan McClure, who just scored her 1,000th point last week, all added 11 points.

The Storm are playing without senior Aryanna Williams, who was leading the team in scoring at 13.9 points per game before hurting her knee last week against St. Charles North. Storm coach Dan Mandernack said the team is waiting on results from an MRI on Wednesday. Freshman Raina Yang moved into the starting lineup.

"We all have to step up," Winterhalder said. "It's really important for our team. It's hard to guard all of us. So when one of our key members goes down we have to make sure that everyone steps up, not just one person. That was really important today."

Mandernack liked the team's ball movement offensively and the way they carved up the Sabres' 2-3 zone with cuts to open spots in the zone that led to high-percentage shots.

"We were running some five out cutting and finding little spots and the kids are so smart," Mandernack said. "They know exactly where to find the soft spot."

Vicki Kopko added 6 points for the Sabres and Sumoski grabbed a game-high 9 rebounds.

"We're trying to find who should be in there more and who can do what for us," Rosner said. "Some people do well in spurts, some do well on offense, some do well on defense. We're having trouble finding that combination. We've got things to work on."

Larkin downs West Chicago for 1st win

By: Allen Oshinski

Larkin's boys basketball team was definitely happy to pick up its first win of the year against West Chicago, but the Royals were less than satisfied with the way they finished the game.

The Wildcats erased a 16-point second half deficit to tie the game at 44 before Larkin pulled away again for a 55-50 victory in Upstate Eight action in Elgin.

Damari Wheeler-Thomas scored 22 points and made 5 crucial free throws down the stretch for Larkin. Fernando Perez Jr. scored all of his 11 points in the third quarter, when the Royals built a 43-29 lead.

Larkin's rotation includes 4 sophomores and a freshman, and the inexperience showed in the fourth quarter, when the Wildcats' pressing, trapping defense forced turnovers on 10 of the Royals' first 13 possessions. That allowed the Wildcats to reel off a 15-1 run to tie the game.

The Royals (1-8, 1-2) regained their composure, however, scoring 6 straight points at the foul line. Jamarion Stubbs made 2 free throws, and Wheeler-Thomas connected on 4 in a row to put Larkin ahead for good.

"In the locker room, I could feel that they're happy that they won, but they didn't like the way they finished the game," said Larkin coach Deryn Carter. "That was a pleasant surprise, from the vibe that I saw in the locker room. With young guys, I thought I was going to go in there and they were going to pretend like we won a regional or something."

The Royals realize that they need to keep their composure down the stretch to keep winning games.

"We've got to handle the pressure more," said Wheeler-Thomas. "Because we had a lot of turnovers down the stretch and our offense turned into their offense."

The Wildcats couldn't convert enough of the turnovers into points. They made just two 3-pointers for the game and shot 6-of-14 from the free-throw line.

"We shot poorly from beyond the arc, we're a better shooting team than that, but that happens," said West Chicago coach Bill Recchia. "Defense is a constant. Defense kept us in this game, defense has kept us in every game so far this year."

Christian Krahenbulh scored 13 points and Jacob Lim 11 for West Chicago (0-7, 0-3). Marque Phillips and Daniel Roldan added 9 apiece for the Wildcats.

Led by Perez with 12 rebounds and Dontrell Maxie with 8, the Royals dominated the backboards, 41-20, but they also committed 27 turnovers for the game.

"We've had 3 games where we did a lot of really good things in the fourth quarter and lost," Carter said. "So I'll take this, not doing a lot of good things, but doing enough to win."