

Press Clippings 12/21/19 to 12/23/19

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There are no U-46 related news stories.

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---Daily Herald---12/21/2019

U-46 could start classes late rather than be canceled in snowy weather

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Elgin Area School District U-46 could have classes start two hours later on weather days rather than school being canceled altogether.



Elgin Area School District U-46 CEO Tony Sanders says classes could start two hours later on weather days rather than school being canceled altogether.

When snowy weather hits, students typically might wish for classes being canceled so they can head to the nearest toboggan hill.

Not so fast, say administrators at Elgin Area School District U-46, which this year is adopting a late-start policy for bad-weather days.

School administrators might delay the start of classes by two hours rather than close for the entire school day.

That would allow maintenance crews extra time to plow parking lots and walkways and for temperatures to rise enough for safe passage of students and employees, U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said.

"It does not replace the potential of full snow days when we have a true blizzard," Sanders said. "Snowboarding days are still a possibility."

Flexibility with school start times has been a challenge for the state's second-largest school district educating more than 38,000 students.

The fact that other suburban school districts could pull off late starts when U-46 couldn't has vexed officials for years, Sanders said.

Sanders said the trade-off for starting school later on bad-weather days was canceling preschool and the before-school SAFE program.

As for students' reaction, "half are going to love you and half are going to hate you no matter what you decide," Sanders said.

Among the suburban school districts that have moved to daily later start times for older children are: Barrington Area Unit District 220, Geneva District 304, Libertyville-Vernon Hills High School District 128, Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Woodland District 50 in Gurnee, and various Northwest Suburban High School District 214 campuses.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---12/21/2019

South Elgin closes better against Elgin

By: Allen Oshinski

South Elgin's boys basketball team wanted to close out a game, and they did it, pulling away from Elgin late for a 54-35 Upstate Eight victory in South Elgin.

The Storm led 24-13 at halftime, then outscored the Maroons 13-3 in the third quarter to all but ice the game. Elgin finally got its offense going in the final period but it was too late.

Drew Cwik scored 12 points and Lane McVicar added 11 for South Elgin (4-5, 2-2).

Xavier Bonds led Elgin with 9 points before fouling out late.

"The effort was phenomenal from us," said South Elgin coach Brett Johnson. "And coming off our debacle at East Aurora on Monday, having a 20-point lead and losing the game, we needed something positive tonight and I thought we got that from a lot of different players."

The Storm used their zone defense to slow the Maroons' athleticism, forcing them to shoot from long range. Elgin hit three 3-pointers in the first 13 minutes, but none thereafter.

After some starts and stops, the Storm offense began to find its rhythm. After a 13-point first quarter, South Elgin didn't score in the second until 2:45 remained before halftime. After a bucket by Wyatt Steurer broke the ice, the Storm rattled off 9 more points in the last 2 1/2 minutes.

After falling in overtime to East Aurora, the Storm picked up a key conference win before starting Christmas tournament play at Jacobs.

"Offensively, we were just moving the ball, cutting through and making the right passes," McVicar said. "It feels really good to get the win. We needed this heading into the tournament and everything else."

John Aaron Wafford and Kendis Wiley added 8 points apiece, and Joseph Zdybel pulled down 6 rebounds for the Storm.

Elgin was again done in by turnovers, coughing it up 24 times.

"We just weren't good in their zone," said Elgin coach Todd Allen. "We tried to get the kids in the right spots, but we couldn't get the ball in the basket. And our turnovers hurt us again as well."

Darien Jackson scored 7 points for Elgin. Jeffery Lomax contributed 6 points, 10 rebounds, and 3 blocks.

Elgin trailed 13-10 after a steal and layup by Jackson early in the second quarter. Neither team scored again until Steurer's basket. A Bonds 3-pointer made it 20-13, but South Elgin scored the next 13 points in a row, a run that bridged halftime.

---The Courier-News---12/22/2019

In Conrad's hands

St. Francis transfer Luczynski lifts Bartlett past Larkin in OT

By: Paul Johnson



Bartlett's Conrad Luczynski and Larkin's Dontrell Maxie go after a rebound during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Thursday.



Bartlett's Ian Smith blocks a shot by Larkin's Jamarion Stubbs in an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Thursday.

Sophomore center Conrad Luczynski lamented how Bartlett came out of halftime Thursday night and "got too confident."

But when the Upstate Eight Conference game went into overtime, well, that's where the Hawks are virtually guaranteed a victory.

For the third time this season, Bartlett had to go to OT. For the third time, the Hawks walked away a winner, edging Larkin 69-64.

Conrad Luczynski led the way for Bartlett (3-7, 2-2) with 14 points, seven rebounds and three blocked shots. In OT, he had four points, two rebounds, an assist and a blocked shot.

"In the third quarter, we got too confident in ourselves," Luczynski said.

"We gave up momentum. We just had to pick ourselves back up, and that's how we came back."

Bartlett held a 38-36 halftime lead, only to see Larkin (1-9, 1-3) put together a 13-4 spurt in the third quarter to get back into the game.

The Royals eventually moved that lead to 53-44 with 6:45 left in the fourth before the Hawks started to rally.

Ian Smith scored seven points in a 9-2 burst, pulling the Hawks within 55-53. Consecutive layups by Hayden Angell gave Bartlett a brief 58-57 lead.

Jashon Johnson-Neals, playing his first game since the season opener, then hit a free throw for Larkin to force OT.

"I liked the way we battled back after spotting them such a bad start to the third quarter," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. "It took some good defense.

"They're such a difficult guard for us because they're so quick at so many positions."

Helping matters for the Hawks has been the addition to the 6-foot-10 Luczynski, a transfer from St. Francis.

"Because he's so tall, defensively he's going to affect shots, and he's going to get rebounds even though he's not as quick as their guys," Wolfsmith said. "Offensively, you have to know where he is. He passes well out of the post."

Larkin coach Deryn Carter pointed to the fourth quarter, when his team had nearly as many turnovers with seven as points with nine.

"Just the inconsistency is getting us beat too often right now," he said. "Youth is not an excuse at this point. We have to play better. We have to play smarter. We'll do a better job of that."

Luczynski was one of five players to score nine or more points for Bartlett. Nick Kantzavelos, Clark Lewis and Smith each had 11. Angell added nine.

For Larkin, Johnson-Neals was in fine form in his return from a hand injury. He converted a drive to the basket seconds after coming in off the bench. He finished with a game-high 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Jamarion Stubbs scored 12 points, while Fernando Perez and Damari Wheeler-Thomas each had 10.

"(Johnson-Neals) just needs to get into game shape," Carter said. "Once he does, he'll be able to continue with that energy.

"I think he lost a little bit of it being tired, which you understand. He hasn't played in 3 1/2 weeks. We're excited to have him back. He's a big piece."