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---Courier News--- 12/27/17

HBO documentary series to feature Elgin

BY JANELLE WALKER



Elgin's Police Department — and the city of Elgin — is poised to make its debut on a very national stage this spring.

A film crew from HBO Documentaries and comedian Wyatt Cenac — formerly of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" — were in town this month interviewing residents and command staff from the Elgin Police Department.

The footage is expected to be used in a series set for this spring.

According to reports, the still-unnamed series stars Cenac and is produced by John Oliver.

The half-hour comedic documentary series "will take a satirical look at social and cultural issues from the former Daily Show correspondent's unique perspective," according to deadline.com and other online reports.

The producers declined to be interviewed via a request through police department officials.

Elgin Chief of Police Jeff Swoboda said the producers were somewhat quiet on how they identified Elgin, but did indicate the city would be shown in a positive light.

Cenac also sat down with Elgin School District U46 Board Member Traci Ellis.

"From what we were told, they learned about us because of national attention we had gotten," Swoboda said, including a July story in *Governing* magazine that looked at the Resident Officer Program of Elgin, known as ROPE, and a *Courier-News* story about a visit by a delegation from Swedish Parliament.

"We have received a lot of national recognition because of our community involvement and strategies here that are working," Swoboda said.

For several years, Elgin police have touted 40-year lows in Part 1 crimes, the most serious crimes reported to federal agencies.

“Through November, initial crime reports show a reduction of part one offenses down 3 percent. We hope that holds through December,” Swoboda said.

Departments from around the country are being interviewed as part of the series, Swoboda said.

“They are looking at community policing and where it is working; (to) identify where it could be used in more areas,” he said.

Much of the interviews focused on the ROPE program, including footage taken at Officer Heather Farrell’s Spring Street home.

The crews also filmed Swoboda’s weekly “Friday with the Fuzz,” broadcast on WRMN radio.

In the department’s Facebook video of the weekly show, one of the cameramen can be seen shooting from Douglas Avenue back into the radio station’s street-level studio windows.

Ellis was interviewed Friday at the Elgin History Museum.

She said she sat down with Cenac for a one-on-one discussion after producers received her name from Fox Valley Peace and Justice, a community group.

The two sat at a piano bench and began talking while the cameras were set up, Ellis said. Somewhere during that conversation, the taping began.

“I was complimentary, genuinely, of Chief Swoboda and the Elgin Police Department,” Ellis said. “I have a good relationship with the chief and the department. I have criticized them and called them when I needed them,” she said.

Her concern is that, while statistics may show that a majority of gang members are “black and brown men,” at times officers may act as if all black and brown men are also gang members, Ellis said.

At times, the police here may be harassing minority men who are not affiliated with gangs, she said.

“They need to make sure it is the gang members they are harassing, or they are making it difficult for black and brown men in this town,” she said.

While training minority youths on how to respond to police, the police also need to be trained on how to interact with black and brown youth, she said.

“It is a two-way street,” Ellis said.

What Swoboda hopes the documentary series does is show local residents and others that Elgin is not afraid of talking about its problems publicly while looking for ways to address them.

"We believe our communication with the community as well as great police work is showing what is possible. With fewer officers than we use to have, we have driven crime to historic lows," Swoboda said.

"The days of Elgin being known for crime have been replaced with Elgin now being recognized for being strategic and solving problems. We openly discuss real issues with our community. This is resulting in Elgin routinely being named one of the safest larger cities in country. But ... we still have much work to do," Swoboda said.

The series is set to begin in March.

Janelle Walker is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 12/27/17

Bartlett rallies from 15 down, beats Jacobs

BY JOHN LEMON

From a breakaway layup to an open 3-pointer and everything in-between, nothing would fall in the first half Tuesday for University of St. Louis-Missouri recruit Kayla Hare.

The senior, Bartlett's all-time leader in 3s, missed her first 14 shots against Jacobs at the Wheaton North Bill Neibch Falcon Classic. She scored just before the halftime buzzer to finish the first half 1 for 15, then caught fire in the second half.

Hare's 18 second-half points plus Bartlett's relentless full-court pressure enabled the Hawks to rally from a 15-point deficit in the third quarter and defeat Jacobs 54-47.

Hare ended with a game-high 20 points plus 6 rebounds, 5 assists and 4 steals, shaking off the slow start to help her team outscore Jacobs 32-10 to end the game.

"It's rough but as a shooter you have to shoot through it," Hare said of the cold first half. "You have to think if you aren't going to shoot well, go to the rim or drive and kick to people who are shooting well.

"My teammates really encouraged me to keep going. Something will fall. Maybe if my 3s won't go I'll get to the rim or shoot free throws to help us."

No. 6 seed Bartlett (7-5) will play No. 3 Glenbard South (11-1) with an 11-game winning streak in the quarterfinals at 3 p.m. Wednesday. Jacobs (4-7) faces Hinsdale Central (3-8) at 10:30 a.m.

The Hawks forced 35 turnovers and held Jacobs to 5 points in the fourth quarter.

"You are not going to beat anybody with that many turnovers," Jacobs coach Joe Benoit said. "For the first three quarters I thought we controlled the pace. Once Kayla started putting it on the deck and drive and attack we really struggled to close out. And we gave up a few crucial offensive rebounds late.

"We have to find a way to have a little more composure and find a way to close the deal."

Jacobs took a 24-19 halftime lead behind sophomore Kyra Cabusao, who scored 14 of her 19 points in the half.

Courtney Pahl and Elizabeth Schwartz sank 3s in a 10-0 run for Jacobs to start the third quarter. Hare made her only trey in 13 attempts, then Kerri Healy drilled a 3 to put Jacobs up 37-22.

Freshman Lexi Sinclair gave Bartlett a boost with a 3-pointer just before the third quarter buzzer to bring the Hawks within 42-35. Like Hare, Sinclair struggled shooting -- that shot was her only make in 11 attempts; she sank 7 of 8 free throws to join Hare in double figures with 10 points.

"We need those two to shoot well," Bartlett coach Brad Hunt said. "I kept telling them we are going to prove there's not a lid on the rim. It was a huge 3."

Cabusao picked up her fourth foul late in the third quarter with Jacobs up by 8, and she was on the bench at the start of the fourth quarter when Hare scored 6 points to bring the Hawks within 44-43.

Cabusao's 2 free throws with 3:45 left gave Jacobs a 46-43 lead, but Teagan Noesen's putback on a third chance followed by Hare's drive with 2:39 remaining put the Hawks ahead 47-46, their first lead since the first quarter.

Hare again penetrated for a basket to extend the margin to 3. Schwartz had a chance for a game-tying 3-pointer rim out with 45 seconds to go, and Sinclair made 4 straight free throws to seal the comeback.

For Jacobs, Healy scored 15 points, Pahl grabbed 9 rebounds and Schwartz and Healy both had 8 boards.

"Overall I thought our kids played really well," Benoit said. "For about 25 minutes I thought our kids played pretty well. Kyra, that was her best game of the year. She was attacking well, finishing well and shooting from the outside as well. The foul trouble hurt us. All correctable things. We have to keep our heads up."

Noesen added 9 points and Shelly Banks scored 8 for Bartlett. Those two combined to make 7 of 13 shots on a day the rest of the team was 10 for 50.

"It's something we've been fighting for awhile now, poor shooting first halves," Hunt said. "I told them good teams find a way to win. What I loved is they didn't stop battling, they didn't stop fighting. We just chipped away. I knew with our press, their legs are going to go. Some girls that came off the bench stepped up today."

---Daily Herald--- 12/27/17
Bartlett advances to semis
BY DAVE HESS

At 6-foot-3, Bartlett senior forward Ben Fisher certainly plays bigger than his size.

Fisher, mixing it up in the middle, muscled his way to 25 points along with 15 rebounds, 8 on the offensive side, to lead Bartlett to a 53-42 win over Prairie Ridge in third round action of the Hinkle Holiday Classic hosted by Jacobs Tuesday night.

Bartlett, 3-0 in pool play and 6-6 overall, advances to the championship semifinals to play Barrington at 6 p.m. Wednesday night.

Fisher, who was 10-of-12 from the field, collected 5 putback baskets and was 5-of-5 from the field in the fourth quarter.

The Hawks were playing without injured senior guard Ben Thompson.

"We had to regroup when Ben went down," said Fisher. "I wanted to be aggressive going to the basket and my teammates did a great job of finding open spots in their zone and they got me the ball in great position to score. We played well in pool play and we are looking forward to playing a very good Barrington team."

Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith liked Fisher's offensive aggressiveness.

"Ben is a competitor and he does a great job of getting to the basket," said Wolfsmith. "With out Ben (Thompson), Ben Fisher stepped up and had a great game. Our guards Tomas Vikonis and Austin Gates did a great job of getting the ball to Ben in good spots to score."

Leading by only 5, 44-39, with 4:48 remaining the Hawks were finally able to secure control of the game with a 8-0 run.

Fisher scored on a pair of driving layups for 4 points, Vikonis canned a 15-footer and Gates scored on a layup off a pass from Byron Price as the Hawks turned a 5-point lead into a 13-point 52-39 advantage with 2:09 left.

Backing Fisher, Gates scored 12 points with 5 assists, Price scored 8 and Vikonis scored 4 and dealt out 6 assists.

"We didn't have good ball movement against their 1-2-2 zone in the first half," said Wolfsmith. "We moved the ball much better in the second half and got easier shots and got a lot more open looks. We moved the ball exceedingly better in the second half. PR's press is tough and we were much more patient against it in the second half. I like this tournament because we play against a lot of different types of teams. We are looking forward to playing against a very good Barrington team."

Connor Kazin scored 16 points and Jack Hoyland tallied 15 for the Wolves (4-8).

"We need to find another scorer," said Prairie Ridge coach Corky Card. "Bartlett does a great job of disguising their defense. On offense, Bartlett does a great job of running the break and they do a great job of running their half-court offense."