

## Press Clippings 3/30/18-4/2/18

---Courier News--- 03/30/18

### **Humble and easy-going: Loyola's Krutwig, Negrón tie Elgin area to Final Four**

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Jacobs grad Cameron Krutwig and Larkin grad Christian Negrón play for the Loyola Ramblers, giving the greater Elgin area a connection to the team.

Like most college basketball fans, Conrad Krutwig didn't think the Loyola Ramblers would make a surprising run to the Final Four this March – even if his brother, Cameron, has been one of the driving forces behind the team's Cinderella story.

But Conrad Krutwig admits he should have noticed the signs early in the season, when Loyola pulled off a surprising upset in December of then-No. 5 Florida at the Gators' home court in Gainesville.

In that game, Cameron Krutwig scored 14 points, grabbed 8 rebounds and made 3 assists. The upset and Krutwig's performance were precursors of what was to come.

Loyola dominated the Missouri Valley Conference. Krutwig was named its Freshman of the Year, and he has been one of Loyola's key players during the NCAA Tournament.

"We've been laughing about all this Twitter stuff, the tweets of how 'I wish I were Cameron Krutwig.' We've just been laughing about all this," Conrad said of recent chats with his younger brother.

Cameron Krutwig – an Algonquin native who played basketball at Jacobs High School – is one of two players on Loyola's Final Four roster with ties to the Elgin area. Christian Negron, a former Larkin High School standout, has played a smaller role with the team.

As Loyola prepares to play Michigan Saturday for a spot in Monday's championship game, those close to the two say they are relishing being a part of history.

"I've practically been on vacation the whole month of March," joked Conrad Krutwig, traveling from Dallas to Atlanta and now to San Antonio to watch Loyola's "exhausting," close games and witness his brother having a "once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Cameron Krutwig was a standout at Jacobs, where he moved up to varsity his freshman year after filling in for an injured player. He helped lead the team to three regional titles and the program's first sectional championship.

Krutwig's time with the Golden Eagles coincided with James Roberts taking over as Jacobs head coach.

Roberts said he still keeps in touch with Krutwig and his family. They text each other frequently, talk on the phone every now and then and meet up for breakfast when Krutwig gets out of Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood to visit family in Algonquin.

On Monday, the two chatted about Krutwig's weekend in Atlanta, where Loyola scored its Sweet 16 and Elite 8 upsets against Nevada and Kansas State, respectively. Roberts, who attended the Atlanta games, said his former player downplayed the wins and told him the Final Four run was "not as big of a deal" as everyone made it out to be.

Roberts said Krutwig told him, "We won in high school (at Jacobs), and now we're winning in college." Krutwig "doesn't feel like a rockstar" and is remaining humble and easy-going, Roberts added.

Around Elgin, people are happy for **Larkin grad Negron**, even if his playing time is sparse. Negron's only appearance in the NCAA Tournament so far was in the final minute of Saturday's game against Kansas State, when the outcome was already decided.

Lisa Negron, Christian's mother, was at the Atlanta games last weekend. The feeling was "indescribable" inside the arena, she said of watching her son and his teammates take the South Regional.

Negron was on the road to San Antonio and the Final Four Thursday with her other two sons and a nephew.

Negron said this season has been more of a "healing process" for Christian, as he is still recovering from an ACL injury that sidelined him during his senior year at **Larkin**. He has taken everything thrown at him this season in stride – the recovery, his role on the bench, the tournament run. Her son has described this past month as "unreal," she said.

"He works hard. It's just his role is smaller," she said. "But he really loves where he is, and feels he chose the right school for him."

**Deryn Carter, Negron's coach at Larkin**, said he last spoke to his former player following the Sweet 16 win against Nevada. He is upbeat and excited for his role with Loyola and its Final Four run, Carter said.

"His common theme throughout the year is, 'Hey, we're winning, I'm helping them win, I'm helping them be prepared,'" Carter said.

The Larkin coach, who this year took his team to its first-ever Final Four appearance in the IHSA Class 4A boys basketball tournament, called Negron "the best player to ever go through (Larkin)."

Jeremy Jenkins, a friend of Negron's since fourth grade, said he recently talked with Negron about making the Final Four.

"He's super excited. He's stoked," said Jenkins, a South Elgin High School graduate who now plays college football for the University of North Dakota.

Jenkins said that as Loyola made its way through its season, Negrón told him, "Dude, we're really doing well now. I think we can make the tournament."

While he's been on the bench most of his freshman year at Loyola, Jenkins said Negrón told him, "He's crazy happy, and he's enjoying every minute of it."

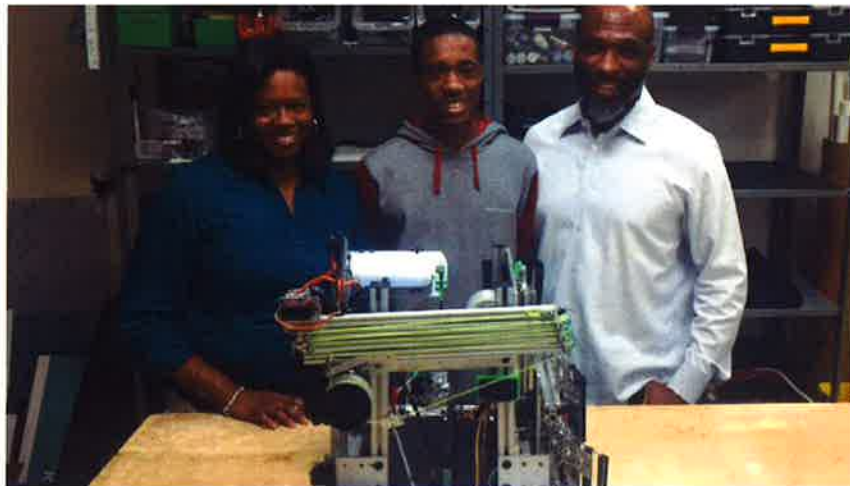
Jenkins said he, Negrón, South Elgin grad Logan Atkins who plays basketball at Benedictine University in Lisle and Harvest Christian Academy grad Brennen Woods, who is on the NIU basketball team all remain close friends.

"This is the biggest landmark in all my sports buddies' careers so far," Jenkins said of Negrón being on a Final Four team.

**---Courier News--- 4/1/18**

## **Elgin teen launches app to track driver's ed practice hours**

**BY MIKE DANAHEY**



Farrah Stephen, from left, Patrick Stephen Jr., and Patrick Stephen Sr. show off the Got Robot? team's machine that competed this year in a Super Regional. The younger Stephen designed an app to help student drivers keep track of their time behind the wheel. (Michael Danahey / The Courier-News)

An Elgin teen has launched an app to help student drivers keep track of the hours they spend behind the wheel.

Patrick Stephen, 17, said he began work on the project last summer and recently released the aptly named Student Driver, with a version available for free at Apple's App Store.

"I had my permit and didn't like how they were having us keep track of our driving time, with a sheet of paper. So I created an app for it," Patrick said.

He said the app, which comes with ads, asks to use GPS at all times. It senses the phone moving to keep track of practice time behind the wheel.

The app can't distinguish who actually is driving, Patrick said. So someone has to manually delete any trips that aren't applicable toward the 50 hours student drivers must spend behind the wheel practicing before applying for a driver's license (in Illinois). And the app only keeps track of time, not distance, in part to save battery life on the phone, Patrick said.

**Patrick is a junior at Bartlett High School's Academy for Science, Engineering and High Technology.** Last year, he built an app that was used by classmates for tracking homework and assignments.

"I learned to make apps by doing research at home and teaching myself," he said.

Patrick actually has been computer programming since he was just 7 years old. His mother, Farrah, got him interested in Scratch, a youth-oriented introductory programming website from MIT Media Lab.

Farrah Stephen described herself as a "finder" for her four children, helping them figure out what activities they might like, then seeking ways for them to explore those pursuits.

Patrick Stephen's Student Driver app will be representing the Illinois Sixth Congressional District in April at an expo in Washington, DC of apps built by students across the nation.

Patrick is used to competition, having been involved in the Elgin-based Got Robot?, a First Tech Challenge robotics team. He said the team recently made it to a Super Regional tournament in Iowa, where its season ended. During his time with the squad, it has made the event's World Championships twice.

Through summer, the team will be working to raise money to put together backpacks filled with STEM-related items to be given out at Elgin-area libraries, he said.

His father, also named Patrick Stephen, is a software engineer involved with mobile commerce projects.

The father said his own interest in computers started at Northern Illinois University where he was a pre-med student who came to DeKalb from suburban Toronto to play football. His church in Canada sent him a computer to use at school, which helped pique his interest in computer science.

While his son is following in his technological footsteps, the father said that's by his son's own choice. He and his wife also have three daughters, and their hopes for them is that find out what their passions are, just like their brother has, he said.

**---Courier News--- 4/1/18**

## **Toiyin Walton and Garrett Jurina power Bartlett boys volleyball to tourney title**

**BY PAUL JOHNSON**



Bartlett's Toiyon Walton hits past Elgin's Jeff Phoulavong during the U-46 Tournament at Elgin on Saturday. (H. Rick Bamman/The Courier-News)

Bartlett juniors Garrett Jurina and Toiyon Walton let their emotions fly when they're on the volleyball court.

The hard-hitting duo had plenty to celebrate Saturday as the Hawks won the six-team U-46 Tournament at Elgin.

Walton had seven kills and four blocks in the de facto title match of the round-robin tournament, a 25-14, 25-19 win over Elgin. Jurina had five kills and three blocks.

"Garrett and I have been playing together for a few years," Walton said. "Most of our energy comes from big blocks or big kills."

The middle hitters have been playing together for a few years now, and their chemistry on the court is evident. Bartlett coach Robert Schwantz loves their enthusiasm, though he said last week Jurina may have gotten a little too amped up.

"Last week, (Jurina) made a huge play and he gave (Matt Tomasek) a high five and you could see his finger marks on his forearm," Schwantz said. "I'm like, you're going to break his arm. Garrett is the strongest kid I've ever coached. You saw some of the stuff he was doing at the net. I have a lot of athletes. We're very fortunate."

Walton is one of those elite athletes. Though he's barely 6-foot, Walton gets off the floor quickly. Though he may be undersized in the middle, he's holding down that position for the Hawks.

"Toiyon plays strong," Schwantz said. "His club coaches (at Pipeline) said they wanted him to play a little bit of right side too, just because of how high he jumps, but he's a middle for us."

Walton ended the match in typical fashion, leaping up and pounding down an emphatic kill to give Bartlett (7-4) the title and extend its winning streak to seven matches.

"I wanted to go full rebuild, so I brought up a bunch of sophomores last year," Schwantz said. "I'll pretty much have the same team next year, too. It's a strong group of guys."

Elgin (4-3) had an encouraging day, winning against Larkin, St. Edward, South Elgin and Streamwood before falling to Bartlett.

"We lack a little bit in height, but we try to hustle as best we can," Elgin coach Andrew LeGoff said. "That's really our biggest thing, being known as a scrappy team. (Saturday) was kind of proving that. We won four out of five, and we realized that when we're playing scrappy and working hard, good things happen."

LeGoff was particularly encouraged by the play of senior Orlando Barrera. The Maroons needed a setter Saturday, and Barrera, who had never played the position before, filled in seamlessly.

"He did a really nice job," LeGoff said. "I thought he made some pretty good decisions. He was hustling. I might actually leave him in as a setter now for the remainder of the season. He kind of led our team."

South Elgin took third place with a 25-18, 25-17 win over Larkin in its last match. St. Edward topped Streamwood for fifth.



---Daily Herald--- 4/2/18

## U-46 studying how trauma affects students, revising teaching approach

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY



**Abbott Middle School English teacher Judy Dowling asks seventh-graders to focus to the tone of a meditation chime during a mindfulness exercise. It's part of the school's new trauma-informed approach to helping students deal with stresses that might hinder their learning and performance in school.**

*Madhu Krishnamurthy | Staff Photographer*

Behavioral issues in students can stem from a plethora of difficulties in their home and family lives, aside from the stresses of school.

That's why Elgin Area School District U-46 is studying how trauma affects students and is training teachers and employees at five schools on providing trauma-informed care.

A trauma-informed approach is based on research about Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs, which suggests a high number of traumatic life experiences, such as poverty, abuse, neglect, divorce, mental illness, incarceration or loss of a parent, severely affects students' ability to grow academically, said John Heiderscheidt, U-46 director of school safety and culture.

Officials estimate roughly 30 percent of U-46 students are experiencing multiple ACEs and dealing with such children is "exhausting teachers" who suffer from compassion fatigue.

"We are having trouble with growth as an organization, as a country," Heiderscheidt said. "Kids in toxic stress are operating in fight, flight or fear mode."

That doesn't mean misbehaving students get a pass, but with training, teachers can be better equipped to understand and meet their social-emotional needs, he added.

"We hold them accountable. But trauma-informed care is really helping us understand on a more holistic basis on what's going on in their lives," Heiderscheidt said. "The first stages are awareness and training and what our purpose is as a community-based agency. Our goal is to become trauma-informed communities."

The initiative was launched by the [Alignment Collaborative for Education](#) -- a partnership among U-46, Elgin Community College, Judson University, the city of Elgin, Gail Borden Public Library, the villages of Bartlett, Burlington and Hanover Park, Hanover Township, Advocate Sherman Hospital, the Grand Victoria Foundation, United Way of Elgin, and other government, nonprofit, business and community groups.

U-46 has created resiliency teams at Larkin High School in Elgin, Abbott Middle School in Elgin and Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin, and Highland and Harriet Gifford elementary schools, both in Elgin. Participants underwent a three-day course on trauma-informed care last summer facilitated by the [Illinois Education Association](#).

Teachers at these schools voluntarily are engaging in trauma care training, but the district's goal eventually is to train all employees through the resiliency teams.

"We want teachers' buy-in and we also want the teachers leading this," said Kristine Argue, IEA professional development director.

IEA is providing trauma care training for several suburban school districts, including those in Batavia, Cary, Crystal Lake, Libertyville, Mundelein and Schaumburg. Next school year, U-46 plans to create eight additional resiliency teams of 100 employees who will be trained in June.

### **Tapping into community resources**

During a recent trauma-informed care training session at Larkin High, teachers complained of a lack of resources and staffing to meet students' needs. Typically, each school has only one social worker who already is overwhelmed dealing with at-risk populations.

At Abbott Middle School, 90 percent of the school's roughly 700 students comes from low-income families, said Mary Abbott, school social worker who heads the resiliency team there.

"The majority of our students are not in a place to be able to learn," she said. "We know that our students are coming in a high state of alert because that's the state they live in. When you are worried about your basic needs -- food, shelter and safety -- academics are really not a priority. We have 500 kids in this building that have high anxiety."

Teachers are learning to respond and address what's happening in students' lives to cause agitation. They conduct mindfulness activities, such as breathing exercises and other meditative practices, to help students focus better and self-regulate emotionally. Mindfulness of the five senses also is reinforced during classroom instruction on core subjects.

"It's a shift from a reactive disciplinary approach to a restorative approach," said Abbott, adding that ongoing teacher training on "self care" plays a big part in this technique. "It teaches anyone to be able to engage with a student simply by showing that they care."

More than 100 Abbott Middle School students dealing with chronic stress are receiving a higher level of social-emotional intervention in smaller groups facilitated by community partners, including mentors and social work interns from the Elgin Police Department and a therapist from the Family Service Association of Greater Elgin.

"We can't do this alone," Abbott said. "When you have very limited number of support staff in a building, you have to bring in outside agencies."

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## **Baseball: Glenbard North outslugs Bartlett**

BY CRAIG BRUESKE



**Bartlett's Tyler Yang tags out Glenbard North's Jasper Serences at second base Thursday in Bartlett.**

*Daniel White | Staff Photographer*

Bartlett and Glenbard North combined for 17 runs and 20 base hits during Thursday afternoon's nonconference baseball game.

By the time the final pitch of the game was thrown by sophomore left-handed reliever Jasper Serences, the Panthers (4-1) had earned a hard-fought, back-and-forth, 10-7 victory in Bartlett.

Despite the fact that their pitchers issued 8 walks and a hit batsman as well as 8 hits, the Panthers kept their early season momentum moving forward.

"We'll take the win," Glenbard North coach Rich Smelko said of the neighborhood rivalry. "A lot of these guys know each other from having played youth and travel ball against each other.

"It was a good, competitive game."

Glenbard North jumped out to a 3-0 first-inning lead thanks in part to RBI singles from Jim Zay and Dom Rotundo.

However, the Hawks (1-4) answered with a 4-run third that featured a run-producing single by Andrew Fehr, Matt Angelone's bases-loaded walk, and a 2-run, 2-out opposite-field single off the bat of Geno Frieri.

"Our timely hitting has gotten a little better," said Hawks coach Devin Rosen.

Glenbard North regained a 6-5 lead with a 2-run fourth.

Back-to-back singles from Justyn Orozco and Brandon Gonzales helped set up Jon Martinez's fielder's choice RBI to tie the game at 4-4.

Two batters later, junior Anthony Ferreri's RBI single put the Panthers back on top 5-4.

Ferreri's big day continued in the sixth when he laced a 1-0 pitch up the middle for a 2-run single that extended the Panthers' lead to 8-4.

"I was actually going up to bat and one of my teammates said to jump on the first pitch," said Ferreri, who went 3-for-5 with 3 RBI and a run scored. "The first pitch was a ball but I was still ready to hit the next one."

Bartlett roared back with a 3-run sixth that included 3 walks, Tyler Yang's double and RBIs from Ben Fisher, Kevin Vesta and Fehr (2 for 4, 2 RBI) to pull within 8-7.

But the Hawks' bullpen couldn't get the shutdown inning it needed as the Panthers padded their lead with a pair of insurance runs in the top of the seventh.

Junior pinch hitter Marc Muller drove in the Panthers' final run with a sacrifice fly.

"Our guys did a good job of adding runs," said Smelko. "Considering the wind blowing in and the temperatures, I was happy with the way we swung the bats."

Gonzales, a transfer from Bartlett, went 3-for-4 with an RBI double while Zay, Rotondo and Orozco each added a pair of hits for the Panthers.

"It was good to see him (Gonzales) swing the bat well against his former team," said Smelko.

Winning pitcher Mike Wellman worked 5 innings, allowing 4 runs on 6 hits with 5 strikeouts.

Aaron Hattendorf (4 IP, 5 R, 7 H) suffered the loss for the Hawks.

"Pitching is our biggest Achilles' heel right now," said Rosen. "We've got to go out there and get quality innings and quality starts. We're giving up too many runs."

**---Daily Herald--- 3/30/18**

## **Softball: South Elgin finds it offense at Conant**

**BY JOHN LEUSCH**

Six days ago, South Elgin's softball team returned home from a trip to Tennessee where the Storm did not exactly rip the cover off the softball with the bats.

But all was not lost.

"We haven't been hitting the ball," said Storm coach Brad Reynard. "But we did (Thursday). We looked like a completely different team. So those swings down in Tennessee really helped."

Casey Brennan's leadoff homer helped get the offense rolling and many of her teammates got into the act as the Storm posted a 9-4 nonconference triumph at Conant on Thursday.

Seven different players had hits for the visitors who produced a season-high 9 runs.

The 11-hit attack included a 3-for-4 performance by senior right fielder Julianna Battaglia, who had a big 2-run double to center in the Storm's 4-run top of the seventh.

"One through nine, we hit today," Reynard said.

"They have strong, solid hitters," said Conant coach Cathynn Smith. "So we have to be better about hitting the corners."

Sam Dietz was 2-for-4 and robbed of a third hit when Cougars second baseman Paige Nallen made a nice play to her left on a hard hit grounder. Nallen threw in time to first baseman Syndey Correa for the first out of the fourth inning.

It was Dietz' 2-run double to right in the seventh-inning rally that gave the Storm its 9-3 lead.

Sophomore Sophia Salazar then closed out the win for starter Sidney Strama (5 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings, a junior (2-2) who is committed to Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga.

In the bottom of the seventh, Jackie Burchfield belted an RBI one-out double to left to score sophomore Alexa Nallen before Salazar got back-to-back groundouts to give the Storm its second win in seven games.

"Sophia is a great mix (with Strama)," Reynard said. "She brings it. She's kind of just learning her craft. She's young. But it's just her height difference, the intimidation and how she throws it. It's a good mix between those two.

"Sidney has been outstanding. Her 2-2 record kind of misrepresents how well she has thrown it this year. I like our (pitching) staff. We have four kids coming back next year with two sophomores and two juniors."

The Storm gave Strama a 2-0 lead after one inning.

Alivia Doyle had an RBI double to left center to score McKenna Eichholz (2-for-3, triple, 3 runs) after Benner's homer.

The lead grew to 3-0 in the second when Battaglia came home on Brennan's sacrifice fly to right.

"If you start the game by getting ahead, it's easier to stay ahead than come from behind," Battaglia said. "We finally had a game where we came out aggressively. Everyone came with a plan and executed it.

"Our trip to Tennessee was like spring training for us. We were getting looks, getting live hitting. Finally this game, we all came ready to play, staying positive, executing our plans and driving the ball."



Conant senior McKenna McCarthy drove a 3-run homer over the left field fence with one out in the bottom of the third inning to tie the game at 3-3.

McCarthy's second home run in two days brought home pitcher Jackie Carlucci (single off left field wall) and Alexa Nallen (bunt single).

South Elgin broke the tie in the top of the sixth when Battaglia and Strama delivered back-to-back RBI singles to make it 5-3.

The Storm added four more in the seventh when Geneva Pollman started the rally with a double.

"We knew South Elgin would come out tough," said Smith, whose team (1-2) returns to action on Wednesday at Maine South. "We need to work on being better from the get go, hitting our spots pitching and making sure we are being more selective in our at-bats.

"I'm proud of how they did attack the ball when needed to. We just have to work on a little more consistency. And we are still working on coming together and getting to know each other as a team. Little by little, we will keep working at it."

**---Daily Herald--- 4/1/18**

## **Boys volleyball: Bartlett claims Elgin Invite title**

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK



**Bartlett's Garrett Jurina, left, and Toiyon Walton try to block a shot by Larkin's Grant Hattendorf, Saturday during the Elgin boys volleyball tournament.**

*Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



Youth movements tend to bear fruit given time.

Saturday may have been the moment a still-young Bartlett boys volleyball team turned the corner from youthful to fruitful.

Seventh-year coach Bob Schwantz went with a complete rebuild last season, so much so he started four sophomores and two freshman in a playoff match.

That same group opened this season 0-2.

"The first few games were kind of rough," junior outside hitter Martin Radomski said. "We were still trying to come together and jell."

The Hawks entered the Elgin Tournament with an even record following a modest 2-game win streak. They departed Chesbrough Field House with a 7-game win streak after sweeping St. Edward and U-46 rivals Larkin, Streamwood, South Elgin and Elgin to win the title for the second straight year.

"These past few games we've really brought it together," Radomski said. "The future looks bright."

Bartlett (7-2) defeated Elgin (4-3) in the championship match 25-15, 25-19. Junior middle hitter Toiyon Walton punctuated the win by crushing a spike to the floor at a 70-degree angle.

"It's a very competitive tournament," Walton said. "Elgin's a very good team. We just kept fighting hard. Our sets were there. Our passes were even better to set and we came out with the win."

Bartlett prevailed despite a shuffled lineup. Sophomore libero James Ballance was elevated from the JV team to the varsity to replace a missing player yet the Hawks didn't miss a beat.

Everyone contributed in the title match.

Carter Burzlaff slammed consecutive spikes during the same rally to give Bartlett a 23-13 first-set lead.

Walton crushed an assist from Burzlaff to open the second set.

Garrett Jurina caught the endline with a topspin swing from the back-row to make it 3-1. He then block stuffed an Elgin attempt for a 4-2 lead.

Elgin fought back and took a 10-7 lead via an unreturnable ace from junior Luis Ramos.

However, Bartlett answered with 6 straight points to take a 13-10 lead. Jacob Bush made it 12-10 with a smash that deflected off the Elgin block. He and Walton next formed a wall to stuff an Elgin swing for another point.

Bartlett never relented from there. Matt Tomasek's ace staked the Hawks to a 19-13 lead, and Radomski sent a soft shot over two blockers to make it 20-14.

Jurina all but finished it off. The 6-foot-2 middle killed 3 straight quick sets to set up match point, which Walton punctuated with emphasis.

"We don't set our middles as much as we'd like, but we're working on it," Schwantz said.

Elgin finished as tournament runner up to Bartlett for the second consecutive year. The Maroons went 4-1 after coming into the day with an 0-2 record.

"I was very happy with what we had today," first-year Elgin coach Andrew LeGoff said. "To come out and beat all our rivals in U-46 -- obviously, we came up short against Bartlett -- but we're going to be seeing Larkin on Tuesday so it was really good to build some momentum going into the last half of the season."

Elgin succeeded despite playing with a new setter. Orlando Barrera, normally a libero, set the Maroons for the first time.

"I thought he did a nice job," LeGoff said. "He made some pretty good decisions. He was hustling. I might actually leave him in as a setter now for the rest of the season. He stepped in and did a good job. He helped lead our team."

South Elgin went 3-2, including a win over Larkin to take third place. The Royals finished 2-3.

St. Edward went 1-5 and took fifth place with a 25-19, 25-13 win against Streamwood.