

Press Clippings 4/20/2018

---Courier News--- 4/20/18

Student receives leadership award

NIU senior from Elgin honored for advocacy work

BY MIKE DANAHEY



Northern Illinois University senior Laura Vivaldo Cholula, of Elgin, will receive the 2018 Emerging Leader Award from the Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education. (Northern Illinois University)

A Northern Illinois University senior from Elgin is being honored for her contribution to the Latino higher education community.

Laura Vivaldo Cholula is scheduled to receive the 2018 Emerging Leader Award from the Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education on Friday at Illinois State University in Normal. The award is given to a student attending one of the state's public universities.

Cholula said she is being recognized for advocating and working toward improving Latino enrollment and success in higher education. Cholula is co-president of DREAM Action NIU, a student-run organization that advocates for students living in the country without legal permission.

"We work to make higher education more accessible," Cholula said.

Cholula, 26, said she came to the United States from Mexico with her family when she was an infant, and moved to Elgin when she was in seventh grade. Cholula, living in the country illegally, said she had no scholarship or grant money available to her to attend college when she graduated from **Elgin High School** in 2009.

She worked in fast food, set up an online page to crowdsource funding and with her mother made and sold tamales to raise money to pay for her studies. As such, one of the projects she and DREAM Action members have done is work to find private sources to fund scholarships for students in the country illegally, Cholula said.

Cholula is a political science major and Latin American studies minor. She is planning to go to law school. While she is interested in immigration and family law, Cholula said she is undecided which legal career path she might take, but that she will be an advocate for her community.



Laura Vivaldo Cholula is co-president of DREAM Action NIU, a student-run organization that advocates for students living in the country without legal permission. (Northern Illinois University)

Cholula said she was inspired to her activism by the “Coming Out of the Shadows” immigrant youth movement, which held its first rally in Chicago in 2010. That led to Cholula heading to Washington, D.C., in summer 2012 to attend a march to the Supreme Court concerning immigrant rights.

“That was very liberating. I connected with so many undocumented youths just like me, from around the country. It was comforting to learn I was not the only one, and that by working together we can make a difference for ourselves and our families,” Cholula said.

Of her continued involvement at NIU, Cholula said, “As students, we have to make the issue visible. The only way to do this is to tell our stories.”

Cholula said she has applied for and received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals temporary protected status. With the fate of that program up in the air, Cholula said she and students like her are anxious, worried and feeling uncertain about their futures and any potential employment.

“We have no pathway to citizenship right now,” Cholula said.

Cholula also has been a Huskie Service Scholar, acting as a peer mentor and speaking to middle school and college students on the importance of higher education. She’s also received the NIU Deacon Davis Diversity Award, given to students who make significant contributions to improving the status of minorities at the university.

As part of the Summer Research Opportunity Program at NIU, Cholula conducted research for the NIU Latino Oral History Project, documenting the experiences of Chicago-area immigrants and those involved with the immigrant rights issues.

Susana Das Neves, ILACHE conference chair and vice president of Academic and Professional Development and a doctoral student at NIU, nominated Cholula for the award.

“I am extremely proud of her recognition as an emerging leader because it represents Laura’s personality, dedication and character,” Das Neves said. “She has paved the way for future NIU students to continue her quest for social justice and equality for all students.”

Christina Abreu, director of the NIU Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, said that Cholula tirelessly works on behalf of others and that Cholula also serves on the center’s Student Advisory Council.

“We are very proud of her,” Abreu said.

---Courier News--- 4/20/18

HBO's 'Wyatt Cenac's Problem Areas' to feature Elgin in episode April 27

BY JANELLE WALKER

HBO's "Wyatt Cenac's Problem Areas," which debuted on the premium cable channel this month, will feature Elgin in its April 27 episode, according to HBO media relations officials.

Cenac and producers were in Elgin shortly after Christmas when Cenac interviewed Elgin Chief of Police Jeff Swoboda, Resident Officer Program of Elgin Officer Heather Farrell, **School District U46** Board Member Traci Ellis, and activist Marcus Banner.

The comedy/documentary series stars Cenac and is co-produced by John Oliver. The half-hour episodes 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 series' first episode focused on the July 2016 shooting death of Philando Castile in Falcon Heights, Minn., and the Ramsey County Sheriff's office, which took over policing for Falcon Heights following the incident.

According to Swoboda, Cenac focused on Elgin's ROPE program, which places officers in city-owned housing in higher-crime neighborhoods.

Elgin and its police department has had "a lot of national recognition because of our community involvement and strategies that are working," Swoboda said in December.

The producers reached out again in March, following the shooting death of Decynthia Clements by Elgin Sgt. Chris Jensen and Swoboda's pending exit to become chief in Fort Collins, Colo.

Swoboda said he feels positive about how Elgin will look to the country in the series.

"Whenever you put yourself out there and allow others to tell your story it can be scary. However in discussions with HBO they seemed genuine in their desire to tell stories down the middle — what's working and what's not. Policing can be messy at times and I hope they show Elgin for what we are: a city and a community that doesn't hide our flaws. Instead we confront them and work hard to improve," Swoboda said.

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

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 4/20/18

Girls Soccer: Bartlett cruises to 6-0 win over Sabres

BY SCOTT MILLER

Bartlett girls soccer coach Victor Marquez has been very patient this season with freshman Serena Salvato as she adapts to being the cornerstone and lone forward in the Hawks' offensive attack.

That patience is beginning to pay off.

Salvato had a pair of goals on Thursday night to lead Bartlett to a 6-0 thrashing of Streamwood at Millennium Field. The Hawks have now won 3 straight.

"She is making a lot of progress," Marquez said. "I think the biggest thing has been she is learning to be more patient. Instead of always turning to shoot right away she is holding onto the ball more and waiting for the play to develop. She plays a very important role, but she is handling it very well. Plus all the other players have really embraced her. They look out for her and try to take some of the pressure off her,"

Salvato scored just 9 minutes into the game to get the Hawks rolling. It was the first of 4 Bartlett goals in the first half.

At the 25:13 mark Morgan Myers scored on a header off a corner kick from Paige Bednarke. Just 35 seconds later Salvato netted her second goal with an assist from Myers to make it 3-0.

"I think we did really good passing the ball today," Salvato said. "We had some good through balls and were looking for the runs. We were patient and waited for the right pass. It was an exciting win."

Makenna Hughes closed out the scoring in the first half with a couple nice moves to dribble past a defender and the goalkeeper to score on an open netter.

Bartlett (7-5-1) added goals from Amber Fiedler and Jenna Dombrowski in the second half.

"The main thing was we did a good job holding the ball and passing it around," Marquez said. "Little by little we are doing those basic important things more and more. It's very welcome to see."

The Hawks' defense was stellar once again as they recorded their second straight shutout. Goalkeeper Teegan Mason needed just 4 saves.

"The number thing is we are shifting and covering the back side," Marquez said. "That reduces the field and makes it easier to defend."

---Daily Herald--- 4/20/18

Baseball: St. Charles North rolls by Streamwood

BY ALLEN OSHINSKI

The North Stars didn't hit a lot, but they didn't need to.

St. Charles North's baseball team got just 6 hits Thursday, but it took advantage of 10 walks, 2 hit batters, and 4 errors by Streamwood to post a 12-0, 5-inning, Upstate Eight win.

The game was a Streamwood home game but was moved to St. Charles.

Steve Hamer pitched 4 shutout innings for the win, striking out 8. Leadoff man Ryan Thiesse had 2 doubles, 2 walks, and scored 4 times. Nick DeMarco had 2 hits and drove in 3 runs for the North Stars (7-1, 3-0).

Just getting a game in was a triumph of sorts for both teams.

"We've tried to do as much as we can indoors," said St. Charles coach Todd Genke. "Their focus has been sharp, and we leave practice every day saying, 'We're going to play tomorrow.' We've tried to be very creative just to keep them ready. But they came ready to play today. I was curious to see how they would come out."

The North Stars did come out ready to go, scoring twice in the first inning without a hit. Thiesse and Pat Bellock drew walks to start the game. They executed a double steal, with Thiesse stealing home. Bellock scored on Tommy Nelson's sacrifice fly.

"It's great to play, finally," Thiesse said. "We've all been waiting for it and it's finally just here. It stunk to miss all those games, but now we're finally playing."

"They canceled nine games in a row," said Hamer. "I just looked at our calendar and we're already halfway through the season. We've only got four weeks left and it's going by way too fast without playing any games."

SCN added 4 more in the third. Thiesse's double to center got it started and DeMarco's 2-run single capped the scoring. Another Thiesse double started another rally in the fourth.

The North Stars put the game away with another 4-run rally in the fifth. DeMarco, pinch-hitter Tyler Brazel, and Hamer all drove in runs during the inning.

It was not how Streamwood wanted to come out of the blocks following a lengthy weather-related break.

"You're obviously not going to win too many games when you walk 10 guys, hit two, and then I think we had three or four errors," said Streamwood coach Ryan Lasota. "You can't give a team like that that many freebases. I think they had six hits. Twelve runs on six hits is not good. Just too many freebases today."

The Sabres mustered just 2 hits. Both came in the third inning, when Jared Oliver and Max Alanis singled, giving the Sabres two runners on with just 1 out. But Hamer retired Cody Motykowski and AJ Reyna to get out of it.

Grant Belich pitched the fifth for St. Charles. He worked around 2 errors to preserve the shutout.

---Daily Herald--- 4/20/18

Baseball: Bartlett warms up in win over West Chicago

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

An unusually cold, gray April has been rough on baseball teams like Bartlett and West Chicago.

Each Upstate Eight Valley team played once in the five days leading up to Thursday's game, which Bartlett won 8-5, and that was against each other on Tuesday.

The thermometer read 52 degrees when the Hawks and host Wildcats took the field at Pioneer Park under skies so bright a West Chicago infielder actually lost a popup in the blinding sun. Baseball weather? Not exactly, but it seemed downright tropical compared to the conditions teams have been forced to play through lately.

"I actually felt my hands today," Bartlett relief pitcher Max Lewis said.

"Usually, I have like three layers on. Today I had the nice two," Bartlett catcher Matt Angelone said. "I didn't even have to wear the extra pair of pants."

The pants Angelone wore were of the big-boy variety. The junior catcher went 3-for-3 with a double and 2 RBI to help the Hawks improve to 4-5 overall. Bartlett is off to a 3-0 start in the UEC Valley.

"It's awesome because we definitely had a slow start to the season so things are starting to turn in the right direction for us," Angelone said. "It's nice to say we've got a 3-game winning streak, all in conference. Let's hope we can keep putting the wins together and have a fun ride this year."

The game was moved to West Chicago due to an unplayable field at Bartlett. The Hawks drew first blood in the bottom of the second inning, courtesy of Angelo. The right-handed hitter fought off an inside fastball and poked it down the right-field line for a topspin single, scoring senior Joseph Tomazin, who led off with a single. A second run crossed while the Wildcats turned a double play.

West Chicago (3-10, 0-2) drew even in the top of the third on a run-scoring single by senior Cade McHenry, which followed a bases-loaded walk issued by Bartlett starting pitcher Nico Natali.

However, Bartlett kept adding runs. The Hawks scored 3 in the third inning on 3 hits and 2 of West Chicago's 4 errors. They enjoyed a 2-run fourth via Andrew Fehr's RBI single and a sacrifice fly by Tomazin, who went 1-for-3 and drove in 3 runs batting cleanup. Angelo led off the fifth inning with a double and scored on senior Tyler Yang's single to extend the lead to 8-3.

The Hawks needed the insurance. West Chicago scored twice in the sixth inning on 4 hits, including consecutive RBI singles by seniors Michael Sawicki and Matt Natzke.

The Wildcats twice brought the tying run to the plate, but Lewis induced a fly out to right field and a groundball to Yang at shortstop to protect the 3-run cushion.

Bartlett reliever Geno Frieri retired the side in order in the seventh inning with 2 strikeouts to earn the save for Natali. He limited West Chicago to 3 runs (1 earned) on 7 hits in $3\frac{2}{3}$ innings, struck out five and issued a walk.

"We've been grinding all year and it's going to be nice when we finally come back and win a game like that," West Chicago coach TJ Nall said. "(Bartlett) did a good job of throwing strikes and making pitches when they had to and that's kind of the name of the game. We didn't play too well defensively. We made a couple of defensive miscues that led to a few more runs for them. I thought our guys threw the ball well and we grinded out some at-bats, but it just wasn't our day."

Left fielder Carter Tijerina went 3-for-4 and Billy Lietzow and Bobby Bartlett each went 2-for-4 with a double for West Chicago.