

# **Press Clippings - 2/27/2023**

## **– Daily Herald –**

### **Elgin Area League of Women Voters to host 'Meet the Candidates Nights'**

**Feb. 24, 2023**

The League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area will host a series of Meet the Candidates Nights for local candidates in contested races.

Participating candidates will introduce themselves and speak briefly on selected topics related to policy and governance.

The first forum will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday for the Elgin mayor and Elgin City Council races. It will be in the Gail Borden Public Library's Meadows Community Room, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin.

Other forums are:

- Thursday for the Elgin Community College and Elgin Area **School District U-46 boards**. It will be from 6 to 9 p.m. in Gail Borden Public Library's Meadows Community Room, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin.
- March 7 for East Dundee trustee. It will be from 7 to 9 p.m. at the East Dundee Police Department, 2nd floor, 115 E. Third St.
- March 9 for Gilberts trustee. It will be from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Eagles Club, 325 Raymond Drive, Gilberts.

- March 16 for the Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 board. It will be from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Rakow Adult Activities Center, 665 Barrington Ave., Carpentersville.
- March 21 for West Dundee trustee. It will be from 7 to 9 p.m. at West Dundee's village hall, 102 S. Second St.
- March 23 for Gail Borden Public Library board. It will be from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Gail Borden Public Library's Elgin Room, upstairs, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin.

For more information, visit [lwvelginarea.org](http://lwvelginarea.org) or call Carol Grom at (847) 428-4064.

## – Patch –

(Elgin Community Corner News)

### Visit Elgin For Its Rich History And Cultural Events

**Every town has its traditions. Check out these fun facts about what makes Elgin so special.**

**Feb. 27, 2023**

**By Patch Staff**

Elgin is a place like no other. And whether you grew up here, recently moved to the area or you're just an occasional visitor, you know that Elgin has its own special traditions and history that make it so unique.

A few things to know:

- Elgin was once home to the [largest watch factory in the world](#), producing over half of the watches in the United States in the early 1900s. In 1959, the Elgin Watch Company donated its observatory to the [Elgin U-46 School District](#). It's now a planetarium popular with students.
- Elgin was the first Illinois community to establish a public library, the [Gail Borden Public Library](#), in 1873. Today, the library offers a wide range of resources

and events for all ages, including author visits, book clubs and community programs.

- The [Grand Victoria Casino](#) in Elgin is the third-highest-grossing casino in Illinois, offering over 1,000 slot machines and 30 table games. The casino also hosts live entertainment and dining options, making it a popular destination for both locals and visitors.
- Elgin is home to the [Fox River Trolley Museum](#), which operates historic trolleys on a mile-long track along the Fox River. Visitors can take a ride on a vintage trolley and learn about the history of electric transportation in the region.
- [Lord's Park in Elgin](#) is a 108-acre park with a variety of amenities, including a zoo, an aquatic center, playgrounds and picnic areas. The park is also home to the Elgin Public Museum, which features exhibits on natural history and Native American artifacts.
- Elgin is home to the [Elgin Symphony Orchestra](#), which has been performing for over 70 years. The orchestra offers a wide range of performances throughout the year, including classical concerts, pop concerts and family concerts.
- Elgin is home to the [Hemmens Cultural Center](#), which hosts a variety of live performances, including theater productions, concerts and dance performances. The center also features a beautiful art gallery, which showcases the work of local and national artists.
- Elgin is home to the [Illinois Prairie Path](#), a 61-mile trail that runs from Elgin to Aurora. The trail is popular among hikers, bikers and horseback riders, and offers beautiful views of the surrounding natural areas.
- The [Elgin Fringe Festival](#) is an annual event that features a variety of performances, including theater, dance, music and comedy. The festival celebrates the performing arts and offers a unique opportunity to experience cutting-edge and avant-garde performances.
- The [Elgin Public Art Collection](#) features over 70 works of public art throughout the city, including murals, sculptures and installations. The collection showcases the work of both local and national artists and adds to the vibrancy and beauty of the city.
- Elgin has a rich cultural heritage, with a strong presence of Mexican-American and other Latinx communities. The city hosts a [variety of cultural events](#) throughout the year, including the Elgin Cinco de Mayo Festival, the Mexican Independence Day Celebration and the Puerto Rican Heritage Festival.
- The [Elgin Farmers Market](#) is a popular destination for fresh, locally-grown produce and handmade goods. The market is held on Saturdays from June through October and features a variety of vendors, including farmers, artisans and food trucks.

– Daily Herald –

## Girls wrestling: Gomez, Perry finish as undefeated state champs



**Emma Engels of Bartlett** controls Alexandra Sebek in the 100-pound championship match at the state championships Saturday. Engels took the title. Sandy Bressner / [sbressner@shawmedia.com](mailto:sbressner@shawmedia.com)



**Emma Engels of Bartlett** (right) hugs opponent Alexandra Sebek in the 100 pound championship match at the IHSA girls state wrestling championships Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023. Engels took the win. Sandy Bressner/sbressner@shawmedia.com

**Feb. 26, 2023**  
**By Mike Garofola**

BLOOMINGTON -- If there was any doubt if both Gabriella Gomez and Sydney Perry are not the best in the state, as well as near the top on the national scene, look no further to the sensational performances each produced Saturday at the second girls state championships.

The dynamic duo were -- well -- dynamic over the two days here in Bloomington at the Grossinger Motors Arena with Gomez (33-0) unstoppable at 115 pounds, while Perry (34-0) near perfect at 145 as each collected their second consecutive state title.

The area would also celebrate championship efforts from Emma Engels from Bartlett, and Ayana Jasinski of Grant, who would be part of a 21 state medal haul.

"I just love everything about this sport -- from helping my teammates in our room, to cheering on friends in other classes (and) doing my best to get better each time I train, and compete," said the Glenbard North sophomore Gomez, who will soon pass her brother Austin on the all-time list for takedowns (244-242) with an eye on program leader Tony Ramos who stands at 288.

Gomez would major Eliana Paramo (Joliet Central, 37-4) in her final after the aforementioned Engels (37-12) shut out Alexandra Sebek (Oak Forest, 41-7) in her 100-pound final.

Jasinski (21-3) was embroiled in a tight, intense contest with Grace Guarino (Lincoln-Way Central, 13-1) until striking the winning takedown with 29 seconds remaining in the first overtime session.

"(It) all happened so fast," said Jasinski when recounting her thrilling finish, who won her two previous matches in advance of her final with 3-1 and 3-2 decisions.

"I know (they) thought it wasn't a takedown, but when I (sunk) that leg, I felt like I got the takedown."

"We always tried to get Ayane as many tough matches with quality opponents, whether against boys, or girls, and all of the hard work she has put in resulted in her winning a well deserved state championship," said Grant coach Mark Jolcover.

Sydney Perry, nationally ranked in the top four, as is Gomez, tech-falled her way into the final where she met previously undefeated, Valerie Hamilton (El Paso-Gridley) whose plan to slow the Batavia star appeared to work until the junior drew even at 4-4 midway through the third period before a well executed near fall close to time gave Perry a 7-4 victory.

A look around the weight divisions saw freshman Janiah Slaughter (Huntley, 100, 27-5) finish third, as did Ava Babbs (Lakes, 125, 22-5), who was a state qualifier a year ago.

Hoffman Estates sophomore Sophia Ball (120, 42-6) gave eventual state champion, Angelina Cassioppi (Hononegah, 27-6), all she could handle in the semifinals, and would later finish fifth overall.

Jayden Huesca-Rodriguez (West Chicago, 18-1) would fall short in her bid to claim the top prize at 190 after her loss to Ini Odumosu (Homewood-Flossmoor, 36-4), while in this same weight class, Wheeling freshman Jasmine Rene (18-10) claimed a fourth-place medal.

**Larkin senior Maria Ferrer** (155, 31-7), fourth here a year ago at 170, came back through wrestle-backs to take home fifth overall.

"It was difficult to make the switch from 170 back down to (155) but I am real proud of that move, and to (still) win a state medal," said Ferrer, who plans on an Actuary degree, while also continuing to wrestle in college.

Mannie Anderson (Conant, 35-6), sixth here last season, moved up a spot at 135, while Schaumburg junior Valeria Rodriguez (140, 37-2) won a second straight third place medal.

"The goal is always to be in the state final, but I felt like I wrestled real well this weekend, and I still have one more year to realize my dream of winning a state title," said Rodriguez, third last year at 155.

Victoria Majias (Burlington Central, 31-9) was fifth at 110, with Glenbard West senior Khatija Ahmed (25-1) sixth overall at 130.



– Daily Herald –

## State's top-ranked team scores decisive victory against Bartlett



*Benet's Nikola Abusara (23) drives the hoop against **Bartlett's Dimitre Petrasiunas (24)** and **Bartlett's Nathan Searce (5)** during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.*





*Benet's Brayden Fagbemi (0) shoots the ball in the paint against **Bartlett's Martin McCarthy** (1) during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.*



*Benet's Andy Nash (10) shoots a floater over **Bartlett's Ravi Banal** (22) during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.*



*Benet's Brady Kunka (3) lunges for a loose ball during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final against **Bartlett** at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.*



*Benet's Nikola Abusara (23) dunks the ball against **Bartlett** during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.*





*Benet's Nikola Abusara (23) shoots the ball in the post against **Bartlett's Kelton McEwen** (left) and **Bartlett's Nathan Searce** (right) during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.*



*Benet's Brady Kunka (3) drives the baseline against **Bartlett's Dimitre Petrasiunas** (24) during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.*



*Benet's Brady Kunka (3) drives to the basket on a backdoor cut against **Bartlett's Dimitre Petrasiunas** (24) during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.*



*Benet's head coach Gene Heidkamp talks to his players during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final against **Bartlett** at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.*





**Bartlett's Keegan Kunzer** (3) shoots the ball against Benet's Nikola Abusara (23) during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.





**Bartlett's Kelton McEwen (2)** drives to the basket against Benet's Sam Driscoll (1) during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.



**Bartlett's Nathan Searce (5)** shoots a three-pointer against Benet's Nikola Abusara (23) during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.



***Bartlett's Martin McCarthy (1) shoots the ball along the baseline against Benet's Parker Sulaver (14) during the 4A Addison Trail Regional final at Addison Trail High School in Addison on Friday, Feb 24, 2023.***

**Feb. 24, 2023**

**By Chris Casey - Shaw Local News Network**

Benet hasn't taken a near perfect regular season for granted.

With a regional championship game against Bartlett awaiting Friday night, the Redwings knew their past success meant nothing.

Benet used its size and athleticism to dominate the glass on both ends to dismantle **Bartlett** in a convincing 62-38 victory to win the Class 4A Addison Trail regional title -- the team's 15th consecutive win since its only loss of the season on Dec 30.

Brady Kunka helped Benet (31-1) in outrebounding the **Hawks** 41-16, including a 22-7 advantage in a first half that saw the Redwings grow their lead to as much as 15 at halftime.

The 6-foot-3 senior was one of four Benet players with at least 6 rebounds and finished with 8 of his game-high 9 rebounds after the break.

"That's something that is a big part of this program," said Kunka, who also finished with a game-high 20 points. "We may not have the tallest guys out there, but we always have five guys on the court capable of crashing and getting rebounds. That was a big point of emphasis tonight, knowing we had a little bit of a size advantage tonight... Make sure we crash the offensive glass for second chances and finish every defensive possession by securing the rebounds."

A couple of buckets by Kunka aided a quick 10-5 spurt to start the second quarter, which pushed the Benet lead to double digits for the first time of the night. **Bartlett** (19-13) did not get back to a single-digit deficit after a Nikola Abusara basket at the 4:13 mark of the second quarter.

Abusara asserted his dominance on the offensive end with a number of creative shots through contact to finish the night with 16 points and 7 rebounds.

Both Kunka and Abusara had putback buckets in the final two minutes before halftime to help put a final stamp on a convincing first-half effort.

"That's a big part of what we emphasize and I think our team has been good at that all year," Benet coach Gene Heidkamp said. "We absolutely have to get on the offensive glass because it's a big part of what we're trying to do. I was really pleased with the effort tonight and our ability to create second and third chance opportunities."

**Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith** thought his team put forth a valiant effort against the top-ranked team in Class 4A, especially on the defensive end in the first half.

With a number of weapons on that end, Wolfsmith knew his team couldn't relax for a minute or the Redwings would make them pay.

"It's really their discipline that kills you," Wolfsmith said. "You can play a perfect defensive possession and they continue to move the ball and find the next guy. If you take any sort of break and get flat-footed for a second, and don't box out, they're going to pound the glass and beat you that way.

"When you play a team that has five guys that can hurt you, you have to play such tenacious, focused defense just to get them to take a tough shot. Even if you do that, then you have to go get the rebound. It's such a hard group to play against and they're going to be an extremely difficult team for anyone to beat in these playoffs."

**Bartlett** did not have a player reach double-figure scoring but was led by Marty McCarthy's 9 points. Benet finished the night shooting 55 percent from the field, including a 6-for-12 team effort from beyond the 3-point line.

The Redwings will take on Lake Park at 7 p.m. Tuesday night in the Class 4A **Bartlett** sectional semifinals. Geneva and Wheaton Warrenville South make up the other semifinal on Wednesday, with the winners meeting for the sectional title on Friday.

# – Elgin Courier-News –

## LOCAL SCOREBOARD

**Feb. 26, 2023**

**By From Staff Reports**

### **FRIDAY'S RESULTS**

#### **HIGH SCHOOLS**

##### **REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

##### **CLASS 4A ADDISON TRAIL**

Benet 62, **Bartlett** 38

Benet (31-1): Brady Kunka 20 points.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

To read the full article, click [here](#).