

Press Clippings - 4/12/2023

– Chicago Tribune – Instruments owned and played by Holocaust victims now part of the Violins of Hope exhibit at Elgin library

April 11, 2023

By Gloria Casas - Elgin Courier-News

Ten heirloom violins played by musicians before and during the Holocaust, instruments that symbolize the strength, resilience and hope of the Jewish people, are part of a traveling exhibit on display at Elgin's Gail Borden Public Library.

Violins of Hope was co-founded by father-and-son violin makers Amnon and Avshalom Weinstein, who collected and refurbished dozens of violins and musical instruments that Jews brought with them when they were transported to Nazi concentration camps.

"When I think about this exhibit, you can't help but think of the people who owned the violins," said Ilene Uhlmann, director of community engagement for Jewish Community Centers of Chicago, or JCC, which is hosting Violins of Hope. "What I hope will happen is these violins will give a voice to people who had no voice. When you play those violins, you bear witness to the fact these people existed."

Uhlmann contacted Gail Borden library officials about putting the instruments on display, and they in turn reached out to local organizations to set up concerts, lectures, programs and other activities centered on the exhibit, which will continue through September.

Uhlmann said viewing and playing the violins is an emotional experience. A musician who played one for a seder for Russian Holocaust survivors at the JCC last week was so moved by the experience that his hands "literally shook" as he began to perform, she said.

The exhibit opened Tuesday and docent-led tours will start Thursday. It will be set up in the lobby of the downtown Elgin library, 270 N. Grove Ave., through the end of May before moving to an upstairs location through September.

JCC staff delivered the violins Monday, said Denise Raleigh, division chief of public relations and communications.

"It came with a sense of excitement and honor that was just inspiring," Raleigh said. "As

we put them into the cases, it was inspiring to think of what these violins have been through and the hands they have passed through.”

The stories behind the violins are very moving, Uhlmann said.

“They speak to hope, resilience and resistance. I hope people hearing these violins, seeing these violins and hearing the stories can look at one another as human beings and realize all human lives are valuable and precious. I can’t think of a time when we needed that kind of message more,” she said.

A grand opening event to be held at 7 p.m. Monday, April 24, will feature an appearance by Avshalom Weinstein, a performance by the Chamber on the Fox and the recitation of an original poem written by Elgin poet laureate Gareth Mann.

A series of musical performances will also be held, including a concert by The Elgin Symphony Orchestra with guest conductor Matthew Sheppard at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, at the Hemmens Cultural Center of Elgin, 45 Symphony Way. (Go to www.elginsymphony.org/concerts-tickets for ticket information.)

Gail Borden library partnered with the Seigle Foundation, Elgin-based Congregation Kneseth Israel, the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Elgin Historical Society, School District U-46, the city of Elgin and Chamber Music on the Fox on the exhibit and programs.

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

– Chicago Tribune –

Smooth sailing so far in U-46 superintendent search, with online survey and focus groups wrapping up

April 11, 2023

By Mike Danahey - The Courier News

A public online survey continues through Friday and focus group meetings wrap up next week as the effort to find the best candidate for the next School District U-46 superintendent continues.

Board President Sue Kerr updated where things stand at Monday night’s board meeting, where she urged everyone with a stake in the district’s future to answer the survey questions posted at www.u-46.org/domain/11787.

The information gleaned from them and the focus groups will help consulting firm Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates create a profile for the type of person the community wants in the top job as the district undertakes several ambitious initiatives, including a multimillion-dollar renovation/expansion/maintenance building plan.

“We encourage staff, parents, community members and students to fill it out. It takes about 10 minutes,” **Kerr** said.

Consultants have been holding focus group meetings this week and last week, including one to be held for the community at 6 p.m. Wednesday at **Family Welcome Center** at 1019 E. Chicago St. in Elgin, before wrapping them up next week, she said.



District U-46 School Board member Sue Kerr (Sue Kerr / HANDOUT)

By the April 24 board meeting, the firm will have a leadership profile put together for presentation to the board. After that, the next step will be evaluating applicants through screening interviews, **Kerr** said.

The search is being limited to internal candidates only. The board is in agreement that someone already with the district is the best choice because they can immediately move forward on projects laid out under **former Superintendent Tony Sanders**, who left to become the Illinois state superintendent of schools.

New to the process when they come on board May 1 will be **newly elected board members Chanda Schwartz and Samreen Khan**, who won last week's election along with **incumbents Kerr and Kate Thommes**.

Both said they have filled out the community survey, and are awaiting contact from the consultants to be brought into the selection process.

In March, the consultants said they should have five or six finalist candidates chosen for board consideration by the week of May 8. Interviews are to be scheduled the following week and, based on the board's preference, due diligence on the top choices will follow.

If all goes as planned, the appointment could be made by May 26 and the new superintendent on the job by July 1, the first day of the new 2023-24 academic year.

In the meantime, **Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Suzanne Johnson** is helping the district as the interim superintendent.

Mike Danahey is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

– Daily Herald – Neighbors in the news

April 11, 2023

By Norrine Twohey



Emmy Terrell won the All-Around State Championship title at the U.S.A. Gymnastics Level 3 State Championships held March 19 in Bloomington-Normal. - Courtesy of Heather Pearson

- Emmy Terrell, a second-grader at Jane Addams Elementary School in Palatine, won the All-Around State Championship title at the U.S.A. Gymnastics Level 3 State Championships held March 19 in Bloomington-Normal.

The 8-year-old gymnast trains in the U.S.A. Gymnastics Junior Olympic Program at the Bartlett Gymnastics Center.

Emmy's state-winning all-around score of 38.875 was the highest score from all state sessions and ages combined, topping more than 749 gymnasts. She also won the State Champion title for Floor Exercise and Balance Beam, with a personal best score of 9.875.

Emmy holds five first place All-Around titles as well as 12 individual event champion titles this season.

- Emma Engels, a Bartlett High School sophomore, was honored by the U-46 board of education for being named champion at the Illinois High School Association's Girls Wrestling Finals.

Emma won the 100-pound championship match at the girls wrestling state meet in Bloomington on Feb. 25. She had only one defeat against a female wrestler all season -- and that was the student-athlete she beat to become the state champion. Emma also wrestled with Bartlett High School's boys team this season.

Emma, who started wrestling in the fourth grade, also plays softball.

"I enjoy the hard work and the challenge of wrestling," said Emma, adding that her victory didn't really sink in until she returned home. The night of her win, she had a police escort to Bartlett High School, where a cheering crowd was waiting for her.

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

– Illinois State Board of Education –

ISBE's Weekly Message

April 11, 2023

By Dr. Tony Sanders

Dear Colleagues:

Spring means more sunshine, new foliage, and – for many districts across the state – a fresh crop of board members. These courageous, unpaid volunteers play a critical role in the functioning of our schools. Over the nearly nine years that I served as superintendent at Elgin-area School District U-46, I had the pleasure of working with a total of 16 different board members – not all of whom agreed with all of my decisions – and I know that the healthy relationships we developed were key to my long tenure and to the smooth operation of our schools.

We need to offer not only gratitude but also grace to our newest board members, who

may feel a little like the proverbial dog that caught the mail truck. They've just won an election, but now what? Suddenly they have to learn how to formulate policy, set strategic and measurable goals, align a complex budget, all while remaining connected to their communities.

To help us get off on the right foot at U-46, we always held an introductory session for new board members, using the good governance leadership tips provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). This booklet – straight from the Illinois experts in school board functionality – provides new board members with a code of conduct, a summary of rights and responsibilities, plus a thorough explanation of six foundational principles of effective governance. When I look back over my time at U-46, I realize that my success as a superintendent was in large part due to our school board members' willingness to understand and manifest those six foundational principles.

Beginning in 2011, we augmented the IASB guidance with our own agreement, which we modified and updated over the following decade, establishing goals and protocols for true transparency. We built clear pathways for responsible and respectful communication so that everyone understood the prescribed steps for addressing concerns. Our agreement was four pages long, but it could be boiled down to two words: No surprises.

I also found that – like the superintendents they employ and the educators in our schools – board members benefit from engaging in professional learning. Having ongoing, regularly scheduled professional development helped our board stay informed about educational issues, smarter about addressing the needs of our schools, and adept at community engagement. We also built in closed-session time as a board for self-evaluation on an annual basis.

Perhaps it goes without saying that all board functions should be governed by the goal of what's best for students. That's true not only for the policies and procedures discussed and the votes cast, but also for the behavior board members model. Our students are watching everything we do, looking for assurance that their fate is in the hands of responsible, respectful adults who genuinely care.

I hope the resources and tips above can be helpful in supporting our newest school board members across the state.

All my best,

Tony

– Daily Herald –

Trustee retires from ECC board after 48 years ‘It’s not the buildings that matter. It’s what happens inside.’

April 12, 2023

By Susan Sarkauskas

In the spring of 1975, Larkin High School teacher John Duffy was getting set to take his four children on a vacation for spring break when several people showed up at his house.

They included his former boss and good friend Chuck Medearis, who had become a dean at Elgin Community College. They asked him to run for the burgeoning college’s board of trustees.

“I said ‘no,’” Duffy recalled Monday. He told them he would be camping in Biloxi, Mississippi, the week of the election. If they wanted him to run, they would have to do the campaigning.

He returned to find himself the newest member of the college’s board.

Tuesday night’s board meeting capped a 48-year run — the longest of any community college trustee in Illinois.

“I was hooked,” Duffy said.

“The top two words in John Duffy’s vocabulary are an emphatic ‘yes’ and ‘absolutely,’” ECC board Chair Jennifer Rakow said at a reception Monday honoring Duffy. She called him a “champion of students,” saying his favorite day of the year was graduation day.

Duffy served three stints as chairman of the board. He also served with various state and national organizations dedicated to community college education.

The college began in 1949, run by Elgin Area Unit District 46 in a single classroom at Elgin High School. When Duffy joined the board, it was an independent district with one building, plus an annex, on a 100-acre site west of McLean Boulevard.

Duffy was there for several construction campaigns. The campus has 14 buildings now, plus the Center for Emergency Services in Burlington and the Education and Work Center in Hanover Park. It also has a site in the Streamwood Village Hall.

But for Duffy, the students always came first.

“It’s not the buildings that matter. It’s what happens inside,” Duffy said.

He also stressed the “community” in community college.

“We are the community’s college, and lifelong learning is why we are here,” Duffy said, saying the college has served people of all ages since its beginning.

“We improve students’ lives through learning regardless of the age of the student,” he said.

Those students included his wife, Anne, who studied at the college en route to getting her bachelor’s degree in education, and all his children. Duffy himself took Astronomy 101 and a sociology course.

Why not Astronomy 102?

“Math,” said Duffy, who taught English and Latin at Larkin, starting in 1962. “It was all math, and it scared the lights out of me.”

Looking out for students made sitting through even the most tedious board meetings worthwhile, he said.

“This place saves students — the students need it,” Duffy said.

Not that all meetings were boring. He recalled one where a trustee threw a cup of coffee at another board member.

That was not Duffy’s style. “I tried my best always to help the board reach consensus,” Duffy said.

Several hundred people attended Monday’s reception. He stood at the door, greeting everyone. They included his former high school students, including one who traveled from California.

Jee Hang Lee — president and chief executive officer of the Washington, D.C.-based Association of Community College Trustees — presented Duffy with a lifetime membership. “You can’t be a board member for 48 years at the local level unless you have what we in the ACCT call a ‘duty of care,’” Lee said.

Presidents and board members of several other Illinois and Indiana community colleges spoke about serving with Duffy on association boards and about his lobbying in Springfield and Washington to improve things for community colleges. The ECC Foundation announced the establishment of a scholarship in his name.

Duffy told the crowd it was “a little scary to think enough people had enough confidence

in me to keep electing me.” He was reelected nine times, the first two for 3-year terms.

Duffy, 88, said that when he ran in 2017, his wife told him he would have to acknowledge to people that he was old. He campaigned telling people about his excellent health — only to get diagnosed a few months later with esophageal cancer, then in 2019, with pancreatic cancer.

“God did not give me one more day on this Earth because I needed it. God gave me one more day on this Earth because somebody else must need me,” he said of beating the cancers. But he felt it would be presumptuous to seek another term.

Asked if he had regrets about his time on the board, Duffy couldn’t think of a specific thing.

“I’m happy. You always wonder if you could have done it better,” he said. “I gave it my best shot.”

– Examiner of Bartlett–

U-46 status quo retained, bond referendum passes

(This article also appeared in Examiner of Streamwood and South Elgin)

April 12, 2023

By Seth Hancock

Despite ongoing trends of declining academic scores and enrollment with increased spending, voters approved of a **School District U-46** referendum to take on \$179 million in new debt as well as elected the status quo candidates for four Board of Education seats.

The referendum passed easily with 11,122 yes votes, 6,559 no votes. DuPage County was the only county to reject the measure by a narrow 2,084 no votes to 2,081 yes votes.

The district advertised the new debt as a “zero-tax-rate-increase bond proposal,” but **former Superintendent Tony Sanders** previously admitted that was with “all things relative.”

One of those “things” would be the interest rate differential, something the board did not publicly inquire about. The Examiner did ask the district how much of the new debt would go to retire current bonds and what the expected interest rate differential would be.

“If approved by the voters, the \$179 million bond will fund new projects to make safety and security improvements, renovate and replace infrastructure, add classrooms for early

childhood education, improve accessibility, and construct STEM labs,” said **Karla Jiménez, director of school and community relations**. “None of the \$179 million proceeds will be used to retire/refund current outstanding bonds.”

Jiménez added: “The interest rate the school district will pay to service its bonds is known once the new bonds are issued. The interest rate used to estimate the cost of the proposed \$179 million bond is 4.73 percent, which includes a large interest rate cushion given market uncertainty.”

This year’s budget was the eighth straight with spending hikes along with enrollment declines, and spending has increased 62 percent and enrollment has declined 13.5 percent over the last decade.

In the board race, six candidates filed for four seats. **Board members John Devereux and Eva Porter** did not file with their terms up this year while **Sue Kerr, the board president, and Kate Thommes, the board’s secretary protempore**, were the highest vote getters at 11,054 and 10,914 respectively.

Newcomers **Chanda Schwartz** (8,916 votes) and **Sareen Khan** (8,766 votes) also won seats ahead of **Maureen Morris** (7,496 votes) and **Heather Manzella** (6,724 votes).

The winning candidates were aided by a heavily funded divisive campaign by Democrat Gov. J.B. Pritzker which targeted school board candidates across the state, including Morris and Manzella, which labeled candidates as “extremist conservatives” who “support harmful measures.”

– Examiner of Bartlett–

Expenses, policy updates approved by U-46 board (This article also appeared in the Examiner of Streamwood and South Elgin)

April 12, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved, via a 7-0 vote, of \$116,460 in expenditure items at its Monday, March 13 meeting.

Included was \$90,000, to be paid through federal bailout funds, to send “up to 52 team members,” the proposal states, to Orlando, Florida over the summer for the Instructional Empowerment Building Expertise conference.

The three-day conference will be June 21 to 23 to “explore the concepts of rigor and equity in learning and education,” the proposal states.

The conference is through Learning Sciences International (LSI) which the district spent a whopping \$18.5 million in 2021 to conduct admitted theoretical work through the 2025-2026 school year.

The board also approved of a contract renewal with Thought Exchange costing \$26,460 (education fund) as part of the district's "equity" work. The proposal states: "Thought Exchanges are a psychologically safe method of engagement that can identify root causes related to equity and inclusion, allowing our team to take decisive and data-informed actions," and it "can be used as a leading indicator to identify starts, stops, and continuation of all things that help to create a school district of belongingness and inclusivity."

Additionally, the board voted 7-0 for \$4.2 million in itemized bills as well as 29 policy updates that **Trisha Olson, chief legal officer**, said the "vast majority... have very minor or technical changes."

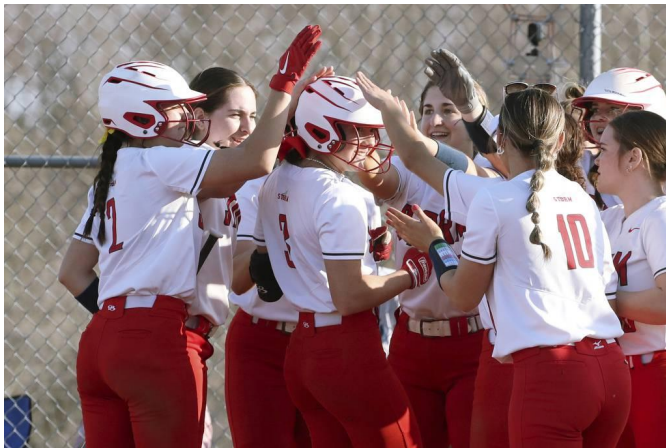
The policies include 2:100 (board member conflict of interest), 2:105 (ethics/gift ban), 2:210 (board organization), 2:265 (Title IX sexual harassment grievance procedure), 3:12 (Title I state and federal program administration), 4:140 (waiver of student fees), 4:165 (awareness/prevention of child sexual abuse/grooming behaviors), 5:220 (substitute teachers), 5:250 (leaves of absence), 5:280 (duties and qualifications), 5:320 (evaluation), 5:330 (sick days/vacation/holidays/leaves), 6:15 (school accountability), 6:20 (school calendar), 6:50 (school wellness), 6:60 (curriculum content), 6:65 (student social/emotional development), 6:250 (community resource persons and volunteers), 6:255 (assemblies and ceremonies), 6:310 (high school credit for non-district experiences), 6:340 (student testing and assessment), 7:50 (school admissions and transfers to/from non-district schools), 7:70 (attendance and truancy), 7:100 (health/eye/dental examinations, immunizations, exclusion of students), 7:180 (prevention of and response to bullying), 7:250 (student support services), 7:285 (anaphylaxis prevention, response, and management program), 7:290 (suicide/depression awareness and prevention) and 7:340 (student records).

– Chicago Tribune –

Get out of Hannah Harms' way. The South Elgin senior hits up a storm from leadoff spot. 'People don't expect it.'

April 11, 2023

By Rick Armstrong - Aurora Beacon-News



South Elgin's Hannah Harms is greeted at home by teammates after hitting a home run against **Bartlett** during an Upstate Eight Conference game on Monday, April 10, 2023. (Mark Kodiak Ukena / The Beacon-News)

Opponents had best beware and not judge this book by its cover.

South Elgin's appropriately named **Hannah Harms** does look like a prototypical contact hitter as she leads off each game, but there's more to her than meets the eye.

The NCAA Division II St. Cloud State recruit is equal parts slugger with plenty of home run power as well as the ability to make contact.

"People don't expect it when I go up to bat," **Harms** said being able to inflict some serious hurt on the ball. "I focus a lot on hitting, having seen and worked with a couple of hitting coaches here and there through my travel organization."



South Elgin's Hannah Harms (3), awaits a pitch against Bartlett during an Upstate Eight Conference game on Monday, April 10, 2023. (Mark Kodiak Ukena / The Beacon-News)

She was at it again Monday, hitting a two-run homer down the left field line in the bottom of the fourth inning. It broke a 4-4 tie with visiting Bartlett that gave the Storm the lead for good in a 10-5 Upstate Eight Conference victory.

Harms, a speedy senior center fielder, added a walk and an infield single and scored three runs for South Elgin (6-2, 2-0).

Last season, Harms hit .489 with a team-high nine homers while batting second behind current Northern Illinois freshman Cara Cruthers.

“Hannah’s average has been a little bit down,” South Elgin coach Brad Reynard said. “She may be pressing, being in the No. 1 slot trying to live up to Cara, but Hannah has still been outstanding.”

Indeed she has, hitting .348 with a team-high four homers for the Storm, who are aiming for a third straight conference title after tying last season with West Chicago.

Bartlett (4-2, 1-1) was coming off a 21-15 win over West Chicago.

“I didn’t know what to expect after seeing that score,” Harms said. “We expected Bartlett to come out strong because of that and because it’s always been a big rivalry game for us.

“It was fun going back and forth.”



South Elgin's CeCe Bell (18) delivers a pitch against Bartlett during an Upstate Eight Conference game on Monday, April 10, 2023. (Mark Kodiak Ukena / The Beacon-News)

Harms' effort backed winning pitcher **CeCe Bell**.

A senior right-hander and Division II Davenport recruit, **Bell** (4-1) gave up four runs on seven hits over six innings with seven strikeouts and two walks.

She helped her own cause with a double and a solo home run, her first of the season. She boosted her batting average on the season to .579.

"**CeCe's** been outstanding," Reynard said. "I probably should have hit her a little more last year. She's been a rock in both spots and is doing a great job of leading us."

When it comes to that improvement, **Bell** credited offseason work on her hitting and also increasing her effort in the weight room to get stronger.



Bartlett's Olivia Ligouri (1) celebrates after hitting a home run against South Elgin during an Upstate Eight Conference game on Monday, April 10, 2023. (Mark Kodiak Ukena / The Beacon-News)

Still rolling along: **Junior catcher Olivia Liguori** hit a solo home run for **Bartlett**, her fifth of the season, to lead off the second inning against Bell.

In the high-scoring affair with West Chicago, **Liguori** went 4-for-4 with three doubles and a home run while driving in seven runs. Earlier in the season, she hit three homers in a wild win over Metea Valley.

Senior first baseman Addison Koth, a Maryville recruit, had a single and a double and drove in a run Monday for the **Hawks**.

"I just try to attack the zone, get ahead and stay ahead and trust my spin," **Bell** said. "(Koth) is a very smart hitter. I think she knew what I was trying to do. She can rake."

Rising star: Sophomore shortstop/catcher **Bria Riebel** led Hampshire (4-3) to three wins in four games last week while hitting four home runs. She ended up hitting .706 in that span.

On top of that?

"Her defense was phenomenal," Whip-Purs coach **Jeremy Bauer** said.

– Daily Herald –

Girls soccer notes: Metea Valley shines on St. Louis trip

April 12, 2023

By Chris Walker

Metea Valley, the defending Class 3A state champs, returned from its St. Louis tournament weekend still undefeated.

Competition was fierce, but the Mustangs were able to pick up victories against Granite City and Triad after opening with a scoreless draw against Nerinx Hall (Mo.).

Last year the Mustangs only lost twice all season before winning their first state title in program history. This year, they avenged a 4-2 loss to Nerinx Hall, getting 10 saves from Alyssa Gluting and outstanding play in back from Kaylee Bannack, Kyleigh Jannisch, Zoe Kirkman, Alyssa Parilli and Sydney Phillips.

"It was a good weekend on and off the field," Mustangs coach Chris Whaley said. "It was good to not only see the starting 11 but also all the girls off the bench. Nerinx (Hall) was

tough. And we were playing three games in three days. Triad just won a state title and we didn't know Granite City would be undefeated."

Lucy Burk scored twice during the three-game tournament while Tyra King, Jordan Lange and Lily Senese also found the back of the net.

The Mustangs have a big early conference battle against Neuqua Valley on Thursday leading up to the Bodyarmor tournament beginning this weekend.

Saints march on:

Apparently, if the shoe fits your feet, it is your opponents who you shall defeat.

St. Charles East senior tri-captain Tia Bernstein acknowledged that filling the void left by departed players from a season ago was a key reality heading into the season.

After an 8-0 start in which the Saints have outscored their opponents, 33-5, one must assume that those shoes are fitting pretty darn nicely these days.

"I think we are all coming together nicely," she said. "I think the hardest part was filling the shoes from those from last year and we've done a nice job. Each game we've learned something and continue to grow as a team."

Senior Grace Williams and Mia Raschke have scored 8 and 7 goals apiece respectively already. Williams also has 4 assists while senior Kara Machala leads the Saints with 6 assists and also had 5 goals. Junior Alli Saviano has scored 3 goals and added 3 assists, Mackenzie Loomis has scored 3 times already and Bernstein had scored twice and distributed 4 assists while quickly falling in love with her new leadership role.

"It's been everything I hoped for my senior season," she said. "And we've only played 8 games so I'm excited for the rest of the season."

The Saints will head down to Carbondale this coming weekend to compete in the Fralish Cup which will present an additional challenge of facing teams they know little about. The following weekend the Naperville Invitational begins.

"We're looking to find the best version of self," Saints coach Vince DiNuzzo said. "In Carbondale there will be a lot of unknowns, no comparable results, so we'll go in blindly at best. And then we'll have Sandburg and Neuqua Valley in the Naperville Invite which is the best tournament in the state. We're working on staying healthy and playing for a top four seed in the sectional."

Sink or swim:

Huntley (5-1-1) has gotten off to a strong start, learning a great deal after an early 5-1 loss to Stevenson as well as most recently in a 1-1 tie to Burlington Central last week.

"We've learned a lot," Red Raiders coach Matt Lewandowsk said. "Crystal Lake Central is going to be our next big test and then we've got McHenry which has been tough the last three or four years with coach Drew Stegenga."

South Elgin (4-2-1) and Wheaton Academy (1-3-1) also loom in the Bodyarmor tournament that begins this weekend.

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

– Examiner of Streamwood – Sabres baseball extends win streak to six straight

April 12, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The **Streamwood baseball team** responded against Bartlett for a 6-2 win in its Upstate Eight Conference opener on Monday, April 3.

The **Sabres** were the host playing at Judson University, where most of their home games will be this year after Judson's football team used Millennium Field last fall during a renovation period.

Bartlett had taken a 2-1 lead in the top of the third inning with two unearned runs off starter Miguel Rodriguez (three innings, four hits, two walks, one strikeout). The **Sabres** tied it up in the bottom half of the frame and added three more in the fourth while Carter Blanchard shut the door on the visitors with four scoreless innings allowing three hits, walking one with one strikeout.

"We went to Carter Blanchard, and he has been lights out all year," said **Streamwood coach Dan Jennings**. "Offensively, our situational and two out hitting is the reason why we won. Also, if you look at the box score, Nick Weaver did just about everything he could do to help us win.... A huge thing for us that we track our 'answer back innings' and 'freebie wars' and we won both of those."

Weaver indeed had a big game going 3-for-3 with two RBI, and he was a home run away from hitting for the cycle as he posted a single, double and triple. Joey Lunz (3-for-4, three RBI), Chris Lara (2-for-4, RBI) and Frank Sanchez (2-for-4) also had big games.

The Sabres followed up with an 11-2 UEC win at **Larkin** on Friday, April 7 and a 13-1 non

conference victory at Glenbard North on Saturday, April 8.

Joshua Wilder (3-for-4, two RBI), Sanchez (2-for-5, two RBIs), Dylan Love (2-for-2, double, RBI), Lunz (2-for-4, RBI), Lara (2-for-4, double) and Weaver (double, two RBIs) led against Larkin, and Austin Paskewic (six innings, two unearned runs, three hits, five walks, five strikeouts) got the win.

Weaver 4-for-4, four RBI, double, home run), Sanchez (4-for-4, four RBI), Lara (2-for-3, triple) and Lunz (two RBI) led against Glenbard North. Joseph Matuszak (4.2 innings, one run, one hit, two walks, six strikeouts) got the win.

Streamwood is now 8-2 overall and is on a six-game win streak with non conference wins the previous week against Marengo (6-4), Addison Trail (8-7) and Romeoville (6-2).

“Our pitching staff has been great all year,” Jennings said. “If our starter does not have it that day, then the first guy out of the pen has been able to throw well and eat up a bunch of innings. Our team is very deep and we have had a bunch of different starting lineups and everyone on our team has contributed in different ways.”

– Daily Herald –

Streamwood making its move in Upstate Eight Baseball

April 12, 2023

By Craig Brueske

Streamwood improved to 9-2 following Monday’s 4-2 Upstate Eight Conference triumph over Larkin.

Last Saturday, the Sabres earned a 13-1 non conference victory over host Glenbard North behind a 4-for-4 day at the plate from senior catcher Nick Weaver.

Weaver, who hit his first home run against the Panthers, headed into the game batting .591 with a 1.506 OPS, 3 doubles, a triple, and 5 RBI.

“Nick is finding new ways to affect the game,” said Sabres coach Dan Jennings. “He has not struck out this year (36 plate appearances) and has 11 stolen bases on top of all the other things he is doing to help us win.”

The Sabres have also received offensive support from senior shortstop Chris Lara and senior center fielder Joey Lunz.

Lara, a 3-year varsity starter, is hitting .379 with 3 doubles, a pair of triples, 6 stolen bases and 11 runs scored.

“Chris has always been a really good player defensively,” said Jennings.

“This year, he has really improved in the box and is one of our best hitters to start the season. He has played a huge role in driving guys in and getting innings started with a big hit or walk.”

Lunz, a 2-year defensive starter, is off to a solid start at the plate with a .467 batting average. He has driven in 5 runs and added 5 stolen bases.

“Joey has come a long way at the plate,” said the coach. “He already has multiple big hits for us this year.”

On the mound, the Sabres have been led by seniors Carter Blanchard (3-0, 0.00 ERA, 13 IP, 1.07 WHIP), Joe Matuszak (1-0, 3.50 ERA, 8 IP, 0 BB, 9 Ks), junior Miguel Rodriguez (1-0, 1.47 ERA, 19 IP, 8 ER, 16 Ks), and sophomores Riley Nosek (1-1, 0.87 ERA, 8 IP, 1 save, 3 BB, 11 Ks) and Austin Paskewic (0-1, 2.00 ERA).

“Miguel is Mr. Clutch,” Jennings said of Rodriguez, who starts as an outfielder when he isn’t pitching.

“He is leading our team in RBI and seems to come up with the big hit more often than not.”

After taking third place in the UEC a year ago, the Sabres (3-0 in UEC) are looking to contend for a conference championship this time around.

“We need to come out and compete every day,” said Jennings. “I know this is cliché coach talk but if we don’t compete and play hard every night, we will be disappointed with the results.

“There are more expectations on us this year, but our guys have embraced them.”

- Longtime St. Charles East assistant coach Mark Foulkes recently acquired a new title — St. Charles City Council Ward 1 Alderman.