

# **Press Clippings - 4/13/2023**

## **– Kane County Chronicle – Kane County Regional Office of Education announces 36 nominees for Educator of the Year Winners to be announced at May 5 dinner**

**April 13, 2023**

**By Brenda Schory**

GENEVA – The Kane County Regional Office of Education announced this year's 36 nominees for Educator of the Year, officials announced in a news release.

Winners in various categories will be announced at a dinner May 5 at the Q Center in St. Charles. Tickets are available through the local school district offices.

“Each year, anticipation grows across all school districts as we prepare to select the Educator of the Year,” Kane Regional Superintendent Patricia Dal Santo stated in a news release. “Each nominee brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and skills. It’s a privilege for the Kane ROE to recognize and celebrate every candidate, making this a momentous occasion for the entire Kane County community.”

This is the 47th year of honoring teaching excellence in Kane County.

### **Elementary nominees:**

- Cynthia Babich, English/language arts teacher at Blackberry Creek in Kaneland District 302
- Elizabeth Reidl, learning behavior specialist at Mill Creek in Geneva District 304
- Ann Butcher, STEM teacher at Fearn in Aurora West District 129
- Maira Martinez, bilingual preschool teacher in the Early Childhood Center in East Aurora District 131
- Michelle Vargas, second grade dual language at Brady Elementary in East Aurora District 131

- Melissa McCarter, Spanish teacher at Cambridge Lakes Charter School in Algonquin District 300

**Middle school nominees:**

- Michael Livorsi, industrial arts/construction teacher and Exploratory Team Leader at Harter Middle School in Kaneland District 302
- Elisa Hunt, band director at Herget Middle School in West Aurora District 129
- Kiel Douglass, special education teacher at Waldo Middle School in East District Aurora 131

**Early career nominees, which recognizes teachers in their second to fifth year of teaching:**

- Jordan Dulowski, math teacher at Geneva High School in Geneva District 304
- Michael Smith, physical education and adapted physical education teacher at Davis Primary School in St. Charles District 303
- Madison Mikos, physical education teacher at West Aurora High School in District 129
- Mark Conning, career and technical education teacher at South Elgin High School in Elgin District U-46

**High school nominees:**

- Carrienne Pozzi, English teacher at St. Charles North High School in St. Charles District 303
- Daniel Ponczek, math teacher at Kaneland High School in District 302
- Emma Cole, science teacher and activities director at Geneva High School in District 304
- Kimberly Pearlman, English teacher at Batavia High School in Batavia District 101
- Neil Currie, social studies teacher at St. Charles East High School in District 303
- Lori Palmer, sheltered English language learner teacher at East Aurora High School in District 131
- Jonathan Vidrine, world language teacher at South Elgin High School in District U-46
- Kathryn Hoving, English teacher at Hampshire High School in District 300

- Teresa Towles, head girls track and field coach and head Step Team sponsor at West Aurora High School in District 129

**School administrator nominees:**

- James Richter, principal of St. Charles East High School in District 303
- Tom Rogers, principal of Geneva High School, Principal in District 304
- Susan Harkin, superintendent of District 300
- Anthony Venetico, assistant principal of STEM at South Elgin High School in District U-46
- Charles Hiscock, principal of West Aurora High School in District 129
- Tonetta Davis, principal of O'Donnell Elementary in District 131

**Educational services nominees:**

- Gina Mitchell, paraprofessional at Harter Middle School in District 302
- Adam Bryl, head custodian at South Elgin High School in District U-46
- Deborah Mickelson, paraprofessional at Schneider Elementary in District 129
- Marilu Medina, custodian at East Aurora Extension in District 131

**Student support nominees:**

- Faye Licari, K-12 instructional technology coach at Kaneland District 302
- Anne Halsema, social worker at East Aurora High School in District 131
- Dominique Zewde, counselor South Elgin High School in District U-46

**Private and parochial nominees:**

- Sharon Elgar, science teacher at Aurora Central Catholic High School
- Christine Stuart, first grade teacher at Immanuel Lutheran School in East Dundee

## **– Chicago Tribune –**

### **Elgin News Digest: Self-guided Elgin architecture tours set for April 29; ECC president wins council's national leadership award; registration's started for 46th annual Elgin Valley Fox Trot**

**April 13, 2023**

**By Mike Danahey - The Courier-News**

#### **75 grads to be featured in ECC anniversary celebration**

As part of marking its 75th anniversary in 2024, Elgin Community College is seeking 75 graduates to be featured as part of advertising, publications and events.

The school was founded in 1949 in a wing of the **former Elgin High School building**, online information says. "Recognizing former ECC students' success, talent, and contributions will be a significant part of the college's 75th anniversary in 2024," the website said.

Former students who have made a difference in their fields and/or in the lives of others can nominate themselves or others by June 30.

For a nomination form, go to [www.elgin.edu/news-events/celebrate75/nomination-form](http://www.elgin.edu/news-events/celebrate75/nomination-form).

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

# – Daily Herald –

## Fox softball notes: Larkin excited to host annual Slugfest again

April 13, 2023

By John Radtke



*Larkin's Chelsea Herrick, pitching in the 2022 Larkin Slugfest, threw a no-hitter against Elgin last week. Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

One of, if not the longest running high school softball tournaments in the state, the Larkin Slugfest, will commence again on Saturday at the Elgin Sports Complex.

Started by former Larkin coach Dale Schabert in 1994, the Slugfest has taken on many different looks over the years, but most recently and again this year, is made up of local teams.

Gone are the days when Fenwick, Loyola, Machesney Park Harlem, a Lincoln-Way team, or teams from central Illinois like Chatham Glenwood or Normal West would make the trek to Elgin.

The 2023 tournament will start at 10 a.m. Saturday with four quarterfinal round games.

Each team will play again at noon and 2:15 p.m., with the championship game on Field 4 at the city's softball facility.

"Slugfest has definitely been a hit over the years," said **Larkin coach Anne Vogt, a 1992 Royals alum.** "It's been a tournament that teams are excited about getting in and returning each year. We have had teams drop over the years and really have a pretty nice group of local teams right now. With the exception of St. Ed's, who has been playing in Slugfest for a long time, it is basically starting the 10 a.m. games with a **U-46** school up against a District 300 or 301 school."

**Streamwood** (1-3) will face Dundee-Crown (4-4), Elgin (0-8) takes on Burlington Central (2-6), **Bartlett** (4-2) battles Jacobs (3-8) and **Larkin** (4-3) faces St. Edward (0-2-2) in the first round.

## – Chicago Tribune –

### Colin Swalley's surge lifts Bartlett past East Aurora. And don't tell him the second spot is second best. 'I really focus.'

April 13, 2023

By Paul Johnson - Aurora Beacon-News



**Bartlett's Colin Swalley** hits a double to center field against East Aurora during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. (Jon Langham / The Beacon-News)

Batting second in the order for **Bartlett, junior second baseman Colin Swalley** has to be willing — and able — to do a number of different things to help out his teammates.

Whether it's working a count to show the opposing pitcher's arsenal, hitting behind a runner or producing a bunt, **Swalley** realizes that he needs to be adaptable to the

situation.

**Swalley** has been embracing that role. And even changing his mindset to fill it properly.

“I’m just trying to stay to the opposite field,” he said. “I always used to be a pull hitter, but now I really focus on trying to drive it where the ball is pitched and finding gaps.”



**Bartlett coach Chris Baum** congratulates **Colin Swalley** (7) after Swalley hit a triple against East Aurora during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. (Jon Langham / The Beacon-News)

After a slow start, **Swalley** has been starting to string things together. He had his second straight strong game in Wednesday’s 17-2 Upstate Eight Conference win over East Aurora.

**Swalley** was 3-for-3 and got hit by a pitch for **Bartlett** (4-8, 3-1). He stole a base, scored twice and drove in a run, following a 2-for-3, two-RBI effort Tuesday against West Chicago.

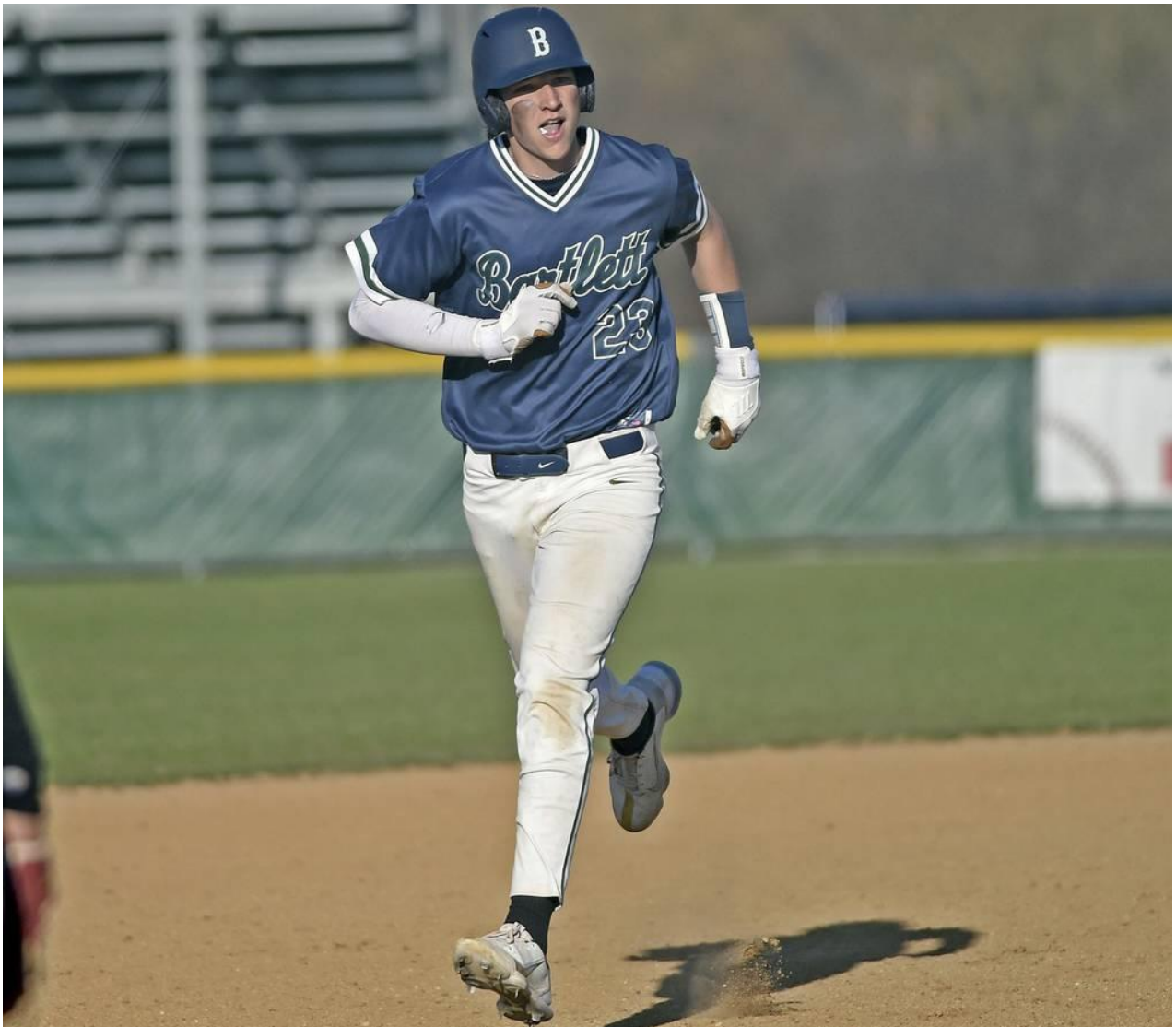
**Dylan Scott** (2-1) tossed three innings for the win. **Freshman outfielder Josh Colaizzi** went 4-for-4 with two runs and an RBI. **Mario Prieto** had three RBIs. Jack Sharko hit a solo homer.

For East Aurora (1-8, 1-4), **Andres Cabral** doubled in **Rafael Vazquez** and **Axel Garcia** for the only two runs. The game went four innings.

**Bartlett coach Chris Baum**, meanwhile, has a specific idea of what he wants in a No. 2



hitter. And Swalley has been fitting the bill so far.



**Bartlett's Jack Sharko** trots around the bases after hitting a home run against East Aurora during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. (Jon Langham / The Beacon-News)

"You want a guy that can handle the bat, and he can go the other way to start getting guys in motion," Baum said. "If we need him to bunt, he can bunt. If he needs to hit behind the runner, he can hit behind the runner."

"That's what you really want out of a two hitter — someone who is confident with the bat and can put the ball where it needs to be."

The red-hot **Swalley** now leads the **Hawks** with a .440 batting average. He has scored five runs with four RBIs and two steals. He has a double and a triple, which he had



Wednesday.

“I’m feeling like I’m playing how I should play,” **Swalley** said. “I had a bumpy start, but I’m getting back into the groove.”



**Bartlett's Mario Prieto** fields a ground ball at first base against East Aurora during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. (Jon Langham / The Beacon-News)

The **Hawks** batted around in the second, third and fourth innings to blow open Wednesday’s game.

That was more than enough for **Scott**, who worked the first three innings before leaving to preserve his pitch count.

**Scott** allowed two runs on two hits, striking out seven and walking two.

“We want to make sure he’s still available later in the week,” Baum said. “**Dylan** is a competitor, like all these guys, and they want to be in as long as possible.

“It was just making a team call.”



**Bartlett's Dylan Scott** delivers a pitch against East Aurora during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. (Jon Langham / The Beacon-News)

**Scott**, who is recovering from a torn ACL that cost him his junior season, was hoping to be a key contributor this spring on the mound.

He has been exactly that in the early going.

“I came into the season with the expectation to be the best,” **Scott** said.

After going through a seven-game losing streak, which included a four-game trip to Tennessee, young **Bartlett** is starting to round into form.

The **Hawks** are 3-1 in their last four games.

“I think one thing we really learned about ourselves is that we can hang with really good teams,” **Baum** said. “We just have to be able to play all 21 outs. I think that’s the big difference.”

*Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.*