

# Press Clippings - 5/9/2023

## – Kane County Chronicle – West Aurora principal named Kane County Educator of the Year

May 8, 2023

By Shaw Local News Network

The Kane County Regional Office of Education has named Charles Hiscock, principal at West Aurora High School District 129, as the 2023 Educator of the Year.

The Kane County Regional Office of Education established the Educator of the Year award to honor outstanding educators in the county who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their students and their profession, according to a news release from the office.

“Dr. Hiscock is a truly exceptional educator who has made a profound impact on the lives of his students,” Patricia Dal Santo, Kane County regional superintendent, stated in the news release. “His leadership, passion for education, and dedication to West Aurora High School is an inspiration to all of us in the education community.”

Listed below are the education professionals who won their respective categories for Educator of the Year:

**Regional Superintendent Award:** Neil Currie, St. Charles East High School, District 303

**Educational Service Personnel Award:** Adam Bryl, South Elgin High School, District U-46

**Student Support Personnel Award:** Faye Licari, Kaneland School District 302

**Private/Parochial Teacher Award:** Sharon Elgar, Aurora Central Catholic High School

**Early Career Educator Award:** Michael Smith, Davis Primary School, District 303

**Elementary/Early Childhood Teacher:** Ann Butcher, Fearn Elementary, District 129

**Middle School Teacher:** Kiel Douglass, Waldo Middle School, District 131

**High School Teacher:** Emma Cole, Geneva High School, District 304

**School Administrator:** Susan L. Harkin, School District 300

Hiscock and all category winners were recognized at the Kane County Regional Office of Education's annual awards ceremony held on May 5 at the Q Center in St. Charles.

For more information about the Kane County Regional Office of Education and the Educator of the Year award, visit [www.kaneroe.org](http://www.kaneroe.org).

## **– Daily Herald –**

### **Fox baseball notes: Three area coaches reach new milestones**

**May 8, 2023**

**By Craig Brueske**

Twelve days later, Jakubowski pocketed his 500th coaching victory during Huntley's 12-2 win over Jacobs -- the school where he earned nearly the first 100 of his 22-year high school career.

After the game, coaches, and players, including Jakubowski's sophomore son, T.J., and older son, Jake, now playing at Heartland Community College, wore black T-shirts with 500 written on the front while posing for post game photos.

"I have been blessed with players, coaches, administrators, and parents who have believed in what we are teaching," said Jakubowski, who received numerous gifts and plaques from parents and players. "When I first got into the coaching profession, my goal was to have as many players move on to the next level as possible, to get an education, and to get the same opportunity I had in my playing career.

"I still feel the same way today but to add to that -- it is more about the relationships and evolving as a coach and mentor."

Baseball-wise, Jakubowski believes in core values -- throwing strikes, playing good defense, situational hitting, and being aggressive on the bases.

"Currently, we have returners reading a book, called "The Power of a Positive Team," by Jon Gordon, along with discussing a podcast by Brian Cain," said the coach.

"We try to do a chapter each and I have been amazed with how our guys like to be around each other. I love the high school game and playing for the name on the front of your jersey versus the name on the back of your jersey."

Jakubowski credits his success to his family, among others.

"My family deserves the biggest credit for allowing me to do the thing I love -- the game of baseball and molding young student athletes to achieve their goals of playing for Huntley High School," he said. "I also credit Bill Angelo and Justin Kees from ECC in taking a chance on a young coach who was removed from his position at Jacobs.

"They taught me that it wasn't just about winning and losing, it was about relationships, team, evolving as a coach, and how to win. I will always be grateful to Coach Angelo and the years I was at ECC. You must understand that I was a head coach for six years and thought I understood everything but after seeing how he ran his program, I realized I needed to change as a coach if I wanted to be successful."

Jakubowski also praised two coaches -- Isse Sopena and Jim Hawrysko.

"Coach Sopena was my infield coach (at Northeastern Illinois) and my second father as a player," he said. "I was fortunate to coach his sons, Nathan, and Andre, after they moved from the city. Coach Hawrysko had a huge influence on me as well.

"Finally, my biggest coaching influence is my wife, Michelle. She helped me see coaching in a different way by having our players read books, team building, etc. Our careers have kind of mirrored each other but the best part of our relationship is that we can relate to one another and offer each other advice. She is my biggest fan, but I have some work to do as she has 548 career wins (as a volleyball coach)."

Bogda recorded his 300th career win during the Gators' 9-2 victory over Cary-Grove on April 8.

"The achievement means a lot to me," said Bogda, who received a wooden "300" plaque after the game. "I have been fortunate to work with some talented young men over the years. I am thankful to have the support from our administration, athletic director, and our assistant coaches who put in a ton of work to make the program a successful one.

Bogda takes little credit for the big numbers.

"I defer all credit to the players I coach and have coached," he said. "They are the ones executing on the field. The victories are theirs. They put in the hard work at practice and in the offseason."

It has been a season filled with milestones reached by several area baseball coaches, including Huntley's Andy Jakubowski, Crystal Lake South's Brian Bogda, and **South Elgin's Jim Kating**.

Currently in his 17th year at Huntley, Jakubowski earned his 400th win with the Red Raiders during their 15-3 victory over Prairie Ridge on April 12.

## — Chicago Tribune —

### Paul Johnson's Aurora, Elgin, Naperville baseball rankings and player of the week

May 8, 2023

By Paul Johnson - Aurora Beacon-News

#### Top 10

*With records through Sunday and previous rankings in parentheses.*

#### 1. St. Charles East 19-2 (1)

[Jake Zitella](#) homered twice Saturday as Saints take three-game set from St. Charles North.

#### 2. St. Charles North 16-7-1 (2)

North Stars go toe-to-toe with Saints, lose two of three while being outscored 7-4.

#### 3. Naperville Central 17-7 (3)

Three-game sweep of DeKalb puts Redhawks atop DuPage Valley Conference at 8-4.

#### 4. Oswego 18-8 (4)

[Trey Hernandez](#) is hitting .517 with 10 extra-base hits to lead Panthers.

#### 5. **Streamwood** 19-5-1 (5)

**Sabres** went 3-0 in Upstate Eight last week, scoring 48 runs to stay in the conference race.

#### 6. Oswego East 16-7 (6)

[Ryan Johnson](#) throws complete game as Wolves beat Yorkville for third straight series win.

**7. Harvest Christian 18-5 (7)**

Lions get ready for Class 1A playoffs with tough losses to 4A Barrington, Hampshire.

**8. Neuqua Valley 13-9-1 (9)**

Wildcats pick up series win over Waubonsie Valley heading into final conference series.

**9. Benet 12-10 (8)**

Redwings face gauntlet of schedule, drop four of six heading into another busy week.

**10. South Elgin 14-4 (NR)**

Quest for Upstate Eight Conference title heats up this week against Streamwood.

**Player of the Week**

Senior pitcher Jack Watson throws five-inning no-hitter for Batavia in 14-0 victory over rival Geneva. Watson struck out 11 and walked one.