

# Press Clippings - 10/16/2023

## - Chicago Tribune - Rick Armstrong's Aurora-Elgin area football rankings and players of the week

By: Rick Armstrong  
Oct 16, 2023



Batavia's Ben Fiegel (2) reacts after a sack against Geneva during a DuKane Conference game in Batavia on Friday, Oct. 7, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

Four teams hold steady at top, while Jacobs jumps back into rankings. East Aurora's Kenneth Cooley and Batavia's Ben Fiegel are the players of the week.

### Top 10

With records through Sunday and previous rankings in parentheses.

1. Batavia 7-1 (1)

Junior defensive tackle Malachi Smith creates havoc as Bulldogs clinch conference title.

2. St. Charles North 6-2 (2)

Sophomore linebacker Aidan McClure intercepts three passes in 42-14 win over Lake Park.

3. **South Elgin** 7-1 (3)

Junior quarterback Kevon Brooks throws for three TDs, runs for another in rout of **Bartlett**.

4. Geneva 6-2 (4)

Senior tight end Michael Loberg catches four TD passes in 42-20 win over St. Charles East.

5. Yorkville 5-3 (7)

Ben Alvarez's 27-yard interception return for TD highlights 13-8 win over Oswego East.

6. Kaneland 5-3 (6)

Senior receiver Aric Johnson runs for two TDs in 28-7 win over Woodstock North.

7. Oswego 5-3 (5)

Lucas Anderson's 17-yard TD reception keeps Panthers close in 13-10 loss to Minooka.

8. East Aurora 5-3 (9)

Jeremiah Brown runs 23 times for 180 yards, one TD. Tomcats now playoff eligible.

9. Jacobs 5-3 (NR)

Eagles deliver fourth straight win following 1-3 start to season.

10. West Aurora 5-3 (8)

Luis Estrella makes 16 tackles for Blackhawks in 10-0 setback at Plainfield North.

### Offensive Player of the Week

Kenneth Cooley raises season touchdown total to 22 with two on runs, one on his fourth punt return of season in 32-21 win over West Chicago that makes Tomcats playoff eligible for the first time in 40 years.

### Defensive Player of the Week

Senior linebacker Ben Fiegel, a Southern Illinois recruit, tallies 10 tackles in 28-14 win over Wheaton Warrenville South. He leads Bulldogs with 67 tackles, to go with one interception and three forced fumbles.

## - Daily Herald -

### **Glenbard East forges three-way tie atop UEC by beating Glenbard South**

**By: Scott Schmid**

**10/14/2023**



Glenbard South's Carter London (6) is tackled after returning a kickoff during Friday's game against Glenbard East.  
Gary Duncan/Shaw Local News Network

After losing in the final seconds to **South Elgin** in Week 2, the Glenbard East coaching staff stressed the importance of closing out tight games.

On Friday night, the Rams proved they heard that message loud and clear at the most opportune time.

With the Upstate Eight conference title hanging in the balance, Glenbard East put together 48 minutes of outstanding football in a 28-14 home win over previously undefeated Glenbard South. The Rams, Raiders and **South Elgin** now all enter Week 9 atop the league standings with matching 7-1 records.

"We've worked hard every day since the summer, especially for this game," said Amonte Cook, who had both a receiving and rushing touchdown. "We all did our jobs. We all wanted this and everybody did great today.

"All three phases were great. But it begins in practice, everybody works hard in practice. There are no off days. And that starts with our coaches, (Coach John) Walters is a great coach."

Cook's 11-yard scoring run put Glenbard East ahead for good at 14-7 nearly midway through the second quarter. His 27-yard TD reception from Blake Salvino increased that margin shortly after halftime.

That was one of three touchdowns thrown by Salvino, who also connected with Gianbiagio Brusca for a 5-yard score and Chris Renford for a 58-yard strike. Salvino finished 12-of-15 through the air for 184 yards while also playing linebacker for a defensive unit that held a high-powered Raiders offense, averaging 47 points per game, in check.

The Rams have allowed just 64 points on the season, with no opponent scoring more than 17.

"This means a lot to us," Salvino said. "We have playoffs coming up and this gets us a better seed while also getting us ready for that. It's all about preparing us for the playoffs. We knew this was going to be a tough game but we prepared hard and came through with it.

"We have great defensive backs. They keep everything in front of them. And we have a great D-line that blows plays up and keeps pressure on the quarterback. All-around, our defense has been great."

Not to be forgotten was the rushing performance of Matthew Larson, who finished with 177 yards on 26 carries.

"This is huge," Larson said. "I feel like we've worked so hard. After we let one get away against **South Elgin**, this was our second chance. We were so grateful to have this opportunity and next week we will try to secure it (at least a share of the conference title).

"We had so much fire. We prepared all week and our O-line came out and played great. I think the biggest part of tonight was how our O-line and D-line played."

Renford finished with four catches for 85 yards while Brusca and Aaron Dotson contributed interceptions.

"I'm so proud of them," said defensive coordinator and 2008 Glenbard East grad Pat Walker, who was the acting-head coach with Walters away from the team due to a family matter. "It was a great effort and I'm so happy we finished the game.

"To give up 14 points against a team like that, a team with some unbelievable players, and then to close it out is a great thing. Against South Elgin we played well for 47 minutes and 50 seconds. But we didn't finish it out. We've been on them about closing it out and tonight we did."

Notre Dame recruit Cam Williams brought in seven receptions for 122 yards for Glenbard South, scoring on a 60-yard pass from Michael Champagne that brought the visitors within 20-14. Champagne threw for 268 yards, which also included a 21-yard TD to Anthony Colby. Shaun Aderholt added an interception.

"They played very, very well," Glenbard South coach Ryan Crissey said. "They were the better football team. They won the line of scrimmage, they were more physical. It came down to fundamentals, of both blocking and tackling, and they were better in those areas.

"But we still have so much to play more and this is a special group. This type of loss puts things in perspective and gets us hyper-focused on what we need to improve on."

## **- Daily Herald -**

### **South Elgin strikes fast in win over Bartlett**

**By: Dave Hess**

**10/14/2023**

Rarely are games decided on the first play of the game.

This one was.

With only 18 seconds elapsed **South Elgin** running back Ari Kravis rambled 60 yards for a touchdown.

The Storm never looked back with a 49-7 win over **Bartlett** in an Upstate Eight Conference game in **Bartlett**.

"We played very well and the kids trusted the system," said South Elgin coach Dragon Teonic. "We got off to a very good start. We played very well at the line of scrimmage. This is a big rivalry. We think about this game 365 days a year."

**South Elgin** quarterback Kevon Brooks threw for 2 touchdowns and ran for another as the Storm

(7-1) led 28-0 after one quarter. Brooks tossed a 20-yard TD pass to Frank Maculuso and a 30-yard pass to Jabari Pruitt. The Storm quarterback also scored on an 8-yard TD run.

Brooks completed 10-of-13 passes for 122 yards which included a 20-yard TD pass to Ishmael George. George caught 6 passes for 95 yards.

"It was important we got off to a good start and a 28-0 lead," said Brooks. "This is a big game." With 11 players carrying the ball, the Storm ran for 282 yards on 33 carries.

**South Elgin's** defense held Bartlett to 66 total yards and 5 first downs.

**Bartlett's** only score came on a 32-yard pass from Vincent Yario to Nicholas Carlos.

With Glenbard East's 28-14 win over Glenbard South on Friday, the Storm is now in a three-way tie for first with the Rams and Raiders

## **- Daily Herald - Week 8 football scores from Friday**

**By: Daily Herald Report**

**10/14/2023**

Friday's scores

Cook

Barrington 50, Palatine 32

Prospect 63, Buffalo Grove 28

Maine West 14, Niles West 3

Hoffman Estates 28, Schaumburg 14

Fremd 30, Conant 14

Hersey 52, Wheeling 7

Elk Grove Village 27, Rolling Meadows 21

Highland Park 47, Maine East 0

St. Ignatius 46, St. Viator 14

Maine South 49, Deerfield 17

Lake

Antioch 48, Grayslake Central 15

Warren 34, Lake Forest 0

Lake Zurich 30, Mundelein 14

Carmel 24, Notre Dame 0

Grant 34, Lakes 13

Grayslake North 40, Round Lake 8

Stevenson 44, Waukegan 8

Vernon Hills 22, Niles North 21

Wauconda 64, North Chicago

Fox

Bureau Valley 67, Aurora Central Catholic 19

Batavia 28, Wheaton Warrenville South 14

Burlington Central 17, Hampshire 14 (OT)

Cary-Grove 47, Crystal Lake South 21

Huntley 35, Dundee Crown 7

**Streamwood** 30, Fenton 14

Joliet Catholic Academy 45, Marmion Academy 0

Larkin 26, Elgin 6

Jacobs 44, McHenry 6

**South Elgin 49, Bartlett 7**

Geneva 42, St. Charles East 20

St. Charles North 42, Lake Park 14

Woodstock Marian 41, St. Edward 0

Plainfield North 10, West Aurora 0

Wheaton Academy 30, Aurora Christian 7

Kaneland 28, Woodstock North 7

DuPage

Neuqua Valley 40, DeKalb 6

Downers Grove North 32, Hinsdale South 0

Downers Grove South 63, Proviso East 6

Streamwood 30, Fenton 14

Glenbard East 28, Glenbard South 14

IC Catholic Prep 55, DeLaSalle 20

Peotone 40, Lisle 0

Naperville Central 49, Metea Valley 21

Brother Rice 24, Montini 7

Hinsdale Central 46, Oak Park-River Forest 13

St. Charles North 42, Lake Park 14

Naperville North 28, Waubonsie Valley 7

East Aurora 32, West Chicago 21

Wheaton Academy 30, Aurora Christian 7

Wheaton North 24, Glenbard North 7

Willowbrook 41, Morton 14

## **- Daily Herald -**

### **Larkin handles Elgin to keep Town Jug**

**By: Craig Brueske**

**10/13/2023**

Playing with an extra sense of purpose, **Larkin's** Erick Myrick enjoyed a memorable senior season performance against crosstown rival **Elgin** Friday night.

Myrick caught 3 touchdown passes and added an interception on the defensive side of the ball, helping lift Larkin (3-5, 3-5) to a 26-6 Upstate Eight Conference victory over the Maroons (1-7, 1-7) at Memorial Field.

With the win, the Royals secured the Town Jug for the third consecutive season.

"It means a lot for us," said Myrick, who finished with 4 receptions for 74 yards, including the Royals' first 2 touchdowns covering 22 and 20 yards, respectively, from junior quarterback Tizairian Johnson-Williams.

"We've been dealing with a lot of adversity. We just had to come out and prove ourselves again."

**Larkin** scored on its first offensive series, capping a 9-play, 37-yard drive with Myrick's touchdown reception on a 4th-and-goal play.

**Elgin** answered with a 4-play, 34-yard drive of its own following Lamyni Spates' 51-yard kickoff return. Spates finished the possession with a 1-yard touchdown run, but the Maroons botched the extra point try, leaving Larkin clinging to a 7-6 first-quarter advantage.

After senior inside linebacker Jalen Miller recovered a fumble, the Royals extended their lead to 13-6 when Johnson-Williams (5 of 14, 84 yards) threw his second TD pass of the game to Myrick.

Following a defensive stop, **Larkin** added another touchdown before halftime, as senior tailback Kevin Malone (9 carries, 94 yards) tiptoed down the sideline for 32 yards.

The Royals led 19-6 at halftime.

"They came out focused because it's always a game they get up for," said Royals first-year head coach Vincent Ray. "It's a community game. **Larkin** versus **Elgin** -- that's big time."

**Larkin** took the opening kickoff of the second half and marched into the red zone before turning the ball over, as **Elgin** junior Andres Marquez recovered a fumble at the Maroons' 10-yard line.

A 3-and-out series ensued, and the Royals put the game away with a 3-play, 45-yard drive, highlighted by Johnson-Williams' 23-yard touchdown pass to Myrick -- his third of the night.

"It was a great way to go out against them," said Myrick. "It was a great team win. I dedicate all my touchdowns to my father (Erick, Sr.). He passed away in January.

"That was my theme -- to come out and try to be a 'dog' for my father," he said.

Myrick's effort didn't surprise his head coach.

"He's a senior, he's a focused guy," said Ray. "He prepares well week in and week out. He's our go-to guy."

Miller led the Royals with 95 yards rushing on 11 carries, while Johnson-Williams added 35 yards on 9 carries.

"Tizairian had a nice night as well," said Ray, who served as the defensive coordinator during **Larkin's** 18-0 win over **Elgin** last season.

"As the head coach, it's good to have that (Town Jug) after losing the bucket to East Aurora."

**Elgin** was led by junior quarterback Darin Ward (8 of 15, 56 yards) and junior receiver Julio Soto (4 catches, 36 yards).

"They've got talent," **Elgin** coach Anthony Mason said of the Royals. "We couldn't find a hole on No. 3 (Myrick). We tried to lock him up and play over the top, but he kept getting loose.

"I felt like we came out with a good fight. I appreciate my guys for that."

## - Chicago Tribune - Football scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

By: From Staff Reports

Oct 13, 2023



Lemont's Matthew McDonnell (8) pulls in an interception against Richards during a South Suburban Conference crossover game in Oak Lawn on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. (Steve Johnston/Daily Southtown)

Results and highlights of high schools and local colleges from the Southland and Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County coverage areas.

## FRIDAY'S RESULTS

### HIGH SCHOOLS

#### FOOTBALL

#### WEEK 8

#### CENTRAL SUBURBAN NORTH

Highland Park 47, Maine East 0

Vernon Hills 22, Niles North 21 (OT)

#### CENTRAL SUBURBAN SOUTH

Maine South 49, Deerfield 17

#### CHICAGOLAND CHRISTIAN

Chicago Christian 38, Christ the King 0

Chicago Christian (5-3, 3-3): Obi Goble 45-yard TD run.

Marian Central Catholic 41, St. Edward 0

Wheaton Academy 30, Aurora Christian 7

#### DUKANE

Batavia 28, Wheaton Warrenville South 14

Batavia (7-1, 6-0): Ryan Boe 5-yard TD run, 15-yard TD pass to C.J. Valente.

Geneva 42, St. Charles East 20

St. Charles North 42, Lake Park 14

#### DUPAGE VALLEY

Naperville Central 49, Metea Valley 21

Naperville North 28, Waubonsie Valley 7

Naperville North (5-3, 3-2): Jacob Bell 2 TD passes. Cole Arl 23-yard TD run, 29-yard TD reception. Lawson Grier fumble return TD.

Waubonsie (4-4, 2-3): Luke Elsea 41-yard TD pass to Julian Johnson.

Neuqua Valley 40, DeKalb 6

#### FOX VALLEY

Burlington Central 17, Hampshire 14 (OT)

Huntley 35, Dundee-Crown 7

Dundee-Crown (1-7, 1-7): Zach Randl 3-yard TD pass to Kali Freeman.

Jacobs 44, McHenry 6

#### KISHWAUKEE RIVER/INTERSTATE EIGHT BLUE

Rochelle 16, Plano 0

#### KISHWAUKEE RIVER/INTERSTATE EIGHT WHITE

Kaneland 28, Woodstock North 7

Kaneland (5-3, 3-2): Aric Johnson 2 TD runs.

#### NORTH SUBURBAN

Lake Zurich 30, Mundelein 14

Warren 34, Lake Forest 0

Warren (6-2, 6-0): Nate Foster TD pass, TD run. Donald McNeal 2 TD runs.

#### NORTHERN LAKE COUNTY

Antioch 48, Grayslake Central 15

Antioch (8-0, 6-0): Martin Cohen KO return TD.

Grant 34, Lakes 13

Grant (5-3, 4-2): Matthew Gipson 2 TD passes. Tyler Zdon 2 TD runs. Daymian Longtin INT return TD.

Grayslake North 40, Round Lake 8

Wauconda 64, North Chicago 0

#### PUBLIC RED

Morgan Park 54, Brooks 6

#### SOUTH SUBURBAN BLUE

T.F. North 27, Hillcrest 26

T.F. South 26, Oak Forest 20

Tinley Park 26, Bremen 14

#### SOUTH SUBURBAN RED

Eisenhower 54, Reavis 0

Evergreen Park 33, Argo 7

Shepard 21, Oak Lawn 17

#### SOUTHLAND

Crete-Monee 65, Bloom 0

Kankakee 63, Thornton 0

Rich Township 40, Thornridge 0

Riverside-Brookfield 35, Thornwood 14

#### SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE WEST

Minooka 13, Oswego 10

Oswego (5-3, 1-3): Brett Connolly 17-yard TD pass to Lucas Anderson.

Plainfield North 10, West Aurora 0

Yorkville 13, Oswego East 8

Yorkville (5-3, 3-1): Josh Gettemy 1-yard TD run. Ben Alvarez 27-yard INT return TD.

Oswego East (3-5, 1-3): Niko Villacci TD pass.

#### SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN BLUE

Lincoln-Way East 42, Sandburg 14

Lincoln-Way East (8-0, 3-0): Zion Gist 2 TD runs, TD reception.

Sandburg (5-3, 3-1): Anthony Shelton 2 TD passes.

Lockport 42, Bolingbrook 27

Lockport (5-3, 1-2): Jordan Kemp 3 TD runs. Drew Gallagher 45-yard TD run.

#### SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN RED

Bradley-Bourbonnais 49, Stagg 27

Lincoln-Way Central 43, Andrew 16

Lincoln-Way Central (7-1, 2-1): Michael Kuehl 3 TD passes, 1-yard TD run. Braeden Meyer 2 TD receptions (21, 10), TD run.

Andrew (3-5, 1-2): Jordan Wandick 18-yard TD run. Drew Silvia 2-yard TD run.

## UPSTATE EIGHT

East Aurora 32, West Chicago 21

East Aurora (5-3, 5-3): Kenneth Cooley 2 TD runs (64, 54 yards), 85-yard punt return TD.

**Larkin** 26, **Elgin** 6

**South Elgin** 49, **Bartlett** 7

**Streamwood** 30, Fenton 14

## NONCONFERENCE

Brother Rice 24, Montini Catholic 7

Brother Rice (4-4): Randall Nauden 2 TD runs (65, 17). Marcus Brown 1-yard TD run.

Bureau Valley 67, Aurora Central Catholic 19

Carmel 24, Niles Notre Dame o

Homewood-Flossmoor 25, Lincoln-Way West 17

IC Catholic 55, De La Salle 20

De La Salle (3-5): Kenyonte Louis 2 TD runs (9, 57). David Coffey 75-yard KO return TD.

Joliet Catholic 45, Marmion o

JCA (6-2): H.J. Grigsby 2 TD runs. Larry Stringham 2 TD runs.

Mount Carmel 43, Providence 9

Mount Carmel (8-0): Jack Elliott 80-yard TD pass to Darrion Dupree.

Nazareth 42, Marian Catholic 13

Marian (3-5): Carter Magerski 9-yard TD run. Kyle Scott 1-yard TD run.

Richards 21, Lemont o

St. Rita 20, St. Laurence 9

## BOYS SOCCER

Benet 1, St. Viator o

## CLASS 3A REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

### LOCKPORT

Joliet West 9, Rich Township o

### WARREN

Waukegan 3, Highland Park 1

### WEST AURORA

East Aurora 6, Plainfield South o

East Aurora (6-9-2): Martin Gaytan 3 goals.

## CLASS 2A REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

### ST. RITA

Englewood 5, Morgan Park o

### WHEATON ACADEMY

Plano 7, IMSA o

## CLASS 1A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

### SOMONAUK

Aurora Central Catholic 5, Indian Creek 1

Somonauk 9, Mooseheart o

## THURSDAY'S RESULTS

### HIGH SCHOOLS

#### FOOTBALL

#### WEEK 8

#### NORTH SUBURBAN

Stevenson 44, Waukegan 8

#### BOYS SOCCER

Dundee-Crown 1, Mundelein 0

Dundee-Crown (13-7-1): Gabriel Herrera goal.

Libertyville 2, Vernon Hills 1

Lincoln-Way West 2, Kankakee 1

Lyons 2, Argo 1

Naperville Central 1, St. Charles North 1

Naperville Central (9-5-7): Mikey DeFalco goal.

St. Charles North (10-6-1): Walter Delapaz goal.

Naperville North 6, Downers Grove South 2

Naperville North (17-1-3): Luke Bouska goal. Jackson Clarke goal. Josh Pedersen goal.

Providence 4, Muchin 1

Wauconda 2, Harvard 1

Oswego East 1, Plainfield North 1

#### AURORA CUP

West Aurora 1, Metea Valley 0

#### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Bartlett d. Glenbard North 25-16, 25-23

Crystal Lake Central d. Jacobs 25-20, 25-14

Jacobs (13-13, 8-8 Fox Valley): Ali Pierre 5 kills, 3 blocks.

Glenbard West d. St. Charles North 25-18, 25-16

Hampshire d. Dundee-Crown 25-23, 18-25, 25-23

Hinckley-Big Rock d. Leland 25-23, 25-15

Homewood-Flossmoor d. Lincoln-Way East 16-25, 25-20, 25-19

H-F (23-6, 5-3 SWSC): LaDonna Trantham 11 kills. Kymora Scott 6 kills. Skylar Skinner 24 assists, 8 digs.

Lincoln-Way Central d. Stagg 25-17, 25-17

Lincoln-Way Central (18-12, 5-4 SWSC): Kiera King 9 kills, 8 assists, 7 digs. Alyssa Teske 5 kills, 12 assists, 5 digs.

Lockport d. Bolingbrook 23-25, 25-17, 25-18

Lockport (22-6, 7-2 SWSC): Kylee Schurig 9 kills. Lainey Green 30 assists.

Marist d. Hinsdale Central 25-17, 25-15

Marist (28-4): Hannah Hosty 5 kills, 5 blocks. Katie Schoebert 5 kills. Elayna Davidson 10 digs.

Minooka d. Yorkville 25-23, 25-11

Yorkville (8-20, 3-6 Southwest Prairie West): Charlee Young 4 kills, 6 digs. Clare Knoll 15 assists, 10 digs. Marie Reichman 17 digs.  
Mother McAuley d. Fenwick 25-15, 25-8  
Oak Lawn d. T.F. North 25-10, 25-18  
Oak Lawn (26-5, 10-3 SSC Red): Sinead Conroy 12 kills. Maeve Hassett 17 assists, 3 aces. Won conference title. Set school record for wins in a season.  
Oswego d. Plainfield North 25-18, 25-18  
Oswego (23-3, 8-0 Southwest Prairie West): Program record for wins in a season.  
Prairie Ridge d. Burlington Central 26-24, 25-20  
Burlington Central (14-13, 6-10 Fox Valley): Ashli Bonds 10 kills. Ashley Arceo 12 assists, 8 digs.  
Rosary d. Trinity 13-25, 25-19, 25-19  
St. Edward d. Streamwood 25-19, 25-5  
St. Edward: Emma Pedres 6 kills.  
St. Laurence d. St. Ignatius 25-21, 25-22  
St. Laurence: Kayla Birmingham 10 kills. Aubrey Martinez 8 kills. Vianne Villa 22 assists.  
Somonauk d. DePue 25-4, 25-5  
Stevenson d. St. Viator 21-25, 25-12, 25-15  
Stevenson (26-6): Brynn Smith 17 kills, 5 digs. Mija Jegers 9 kills, 9 digs, 3 aces. Kyra Costabile 19 assists, 5 digs, 3 aces. Alice Birtig 14 digs.  
Vernon Hills d. Regina 26-24, 25-22  
Vernon Hills (14-15): Caylie Zahnow 8 kills. Kristina Todorovich 7 kills. Maya Raval 20 assists.  
Warren d. Niles North 25-21, 25-14  
RIVER VALLEY TOURNAMENT  
Beecher d. Tri-Point 25-13, 25-10  
Grant Park d. Illinois Lutheran 25-22, 25-22  
Illinois Lutheran (9-17): Anna Oestmann 6 kills, 11 digs. Kailey Van Es 9 assists, 12 digs.

## **- Chicago Tribune -**

**A split decision works in Kevon Brooks' favor at quarterback for South Elgin. 'The transition has been smooth.'**

**By: Paul Johnson**

**Oct 13, 2023**



South Elgin's Kevon Brooks (12) looks to the sideline for the play against Bartlett during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

Heading into the season, **South Elgin's** Kevon Brooks split reps at quarterback in practice with Jack Ginnan. Ultimately, it was Ginnan who would win the starting job.

But when Ginnan went down two weeks ago with a broken leg against Glenbard South, that meant the 5-foot-11, 153-pound junior was more than ready to go.

"The transition has been smooth," Brooks said. "I was on defense, but the transition to quarterback, since we had the same amount of reps, was just smooth.

"I trusted the system and trusted God, and it led me to right here."

Right here Friday night was leading the Storm to a 49-7 Upstate Eight Conference victory at rival Bartlett. Brooks completed 14 of 19 passes for 177 yards and four touchdowns.

Brook also ran for a TD and Jabari Pruitt caught two TD passes for **South Elgin** (7-1, 7-1). Ishmael George added six catches for 88 yards and a TD. Ari Kravis ran for 90 yards, including a 60-yard TD on the first play of the game.

The lone TD for Bartlett (4-4, 4-4) was a 38-yard pass from Vince Yario to Nicholas Carlos.

**South Elgin** coach Dragan Teonic has seen this script before in recent seasons. Several times, the Storm had to turn to a backup due to an injury, which is why he tries to split reps as often as possible.



South Elgin's Kevon Brooks (12) waits on the sideline for the second half to start during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

“It’s part of the deal,” Teonic said. “KJ has really stepped up and improved as the years have gone on. I’m really proud of him. He’s just a really nice football player.”

“I think where he’s really improved is as a passer. He’s playing lights out right now — playing really well. He’s composed. He’s running the offense. He’s making good decisions.”

All Brooks had to do to get the Storm on the board to start the game was hand the ball off to Kravis, who raced 60 yards for the TD that set the tone for the easy win.

“I’m just proud of Ari,” Teonic said. “It wasn’t the goal to score on the first play, of course, but we want to score on the first drive. That’s why we took the ball.”

“I’m just proud because it was Ari. He’s battled. He’s put in so many hours of work. He’s done so much right. That was awesome.”



Bartlett's Nicholas Carlos (88) catches a pass for a touchdown as South Elgin's Nicolas Barkho (29) defends during an

Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

**South Elgin** jumped out to a 28-0 lead in the first quarter. Then in the second quarter, George got into the act. The team's leading receiver this season, he caught a 12-yard TD pass to make it 35-7.

George's connection with Ginnan was a big theme for the Storm early on this season. It hasn't changed with Brooks under center.

"It wasn't really a transition," George said. "He's been getting reps. I'm glad that he's stayed calm and isn't taking it as too much pressure. I'm glad he's dealing with the pressure really well.

"We're having a good connection. I've known him since I was a little kid."

The Storm also have bounced back from the 14-13 loss to Glenbard South, which ended their 29-game conference winning streak.

Glenbard South lost Friday to Glenbard East, meaning a win over **Streamwood** will still give **South Elgin** the title.



South Elgin's Kevon Brooks Jr. (12) hands off to Ari Kravis (5) in the third quarter against Bartlett during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

"It stinks to have lost," Teonic said. "It might be a good lesson for our guys. The streak was fun."

Leading that charge now will be Brooks, and he's up for the challenge.

"The loss was really hard, but we bounced back," Brooks said. "We still have other goals to handle. It's life, so it happens. We were taught to persevere and overcome that.

"I'm just blessed to be in this position. We plan on reaching all our goals."

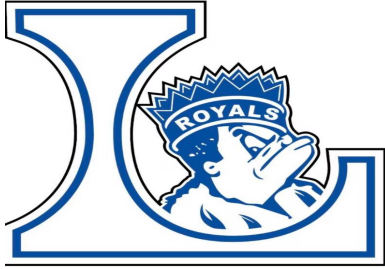
**- Shaw Local News Network -**

# Larkin's Erick Myrick scores 3 TDs in win over rival Elgin

## Royals take home Town Jug for third season in a row

By: Craig Brueske

October 13, 2023



**ELGIN** – Playing with an extra sense of purpose, **Larkin's** Erick Myrick enjoyed a memorable senior season performance against crosstown rival **Elgin** on Friday night.

Myrick caught three touchdown passes and added an interception on the defensive side of the ball, helping lift Larkin (3-5, 3-5) to a 26-6 Upstate Eight Conference victory over the Maroons ... [Log in or subscribe to continue reading]