

## Press Clippings 1/11/2022

### Kane County Connects U-46 limits numbers in sports, events --- 1/11/2022

School District U-46 is limiting the number of people allowed to watch athletic events and other activities in reaction to the recent COVID-19 surge fueled by the Omicron variant.

According to a [U-46 news release posted on the district's homepage](#), indoor activities will be limited to 25% capacity.



*Lela Majstorovic*

“U-46 values all athletic events and activities, and the benefits that they bring for our students, families, and communities,” U-46 Assistant Superintendent of Schools Lela Majstorovic said in the releases. “We are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all involved at these events. Unfortunately, with the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, we need to limit the number of spectators at these events for the next two weeks (until Jan. 17).

All U-46 athletic events and activities will allow spectators under the following guidelines.

- A 25 percent capacity of the facility for spectators.
- Middle school games will only allow parents and siblings of players.
- For this weekend’s basketball rivalry games, lower-level high school games (Freshman – JV) will not be played in auxiliary gyms; instead, days and times will be adjusted to allow them all to be played in the main gym.
- Tickets will not be sold to high school athletic events. Instead, they will be distributed to coaches and players and their immediate family members as well as band, cheer, and dance students and immediate family members. Any remaining tickets will be distributed to the students in the school.

- Varsity games will still be played on Friday at originally scheduled times.
- High school games will be live-streamed for fans not able to attend in person.



A message with the rescheduled dates will be shared with the students and their families once the dates are confirmed.

“We understand this is not the best way to start the new year, but these guidelines allow our athletic events and activities to continue under the circumstances and in a way we can help keep our staff and students safe and well,” she said. “Please know that we will continue to require social distancing and expect all spectators to wear their masks properly for the duration of the event, covering their mouth and nose. Thank you for your understanding and patience.:

Schools will also communicate directly with their families about specific athletic events and activities for their students. If you have questions, please contact your school’s principal or athletic department.

*SOURCE: U-46 news releases and website*

## **Daily Herald - Boys’ Basketball: Larkin’s fast start breaks records --- 1/11/2022**

**By Mike Miazga, Daily Herald Correspondent**



Larkin's Fernando Perez defends Johnsburg's Dylan Schmidt during the Hinkle Holiday Classic at Jacobs, a tournament the Royals won as part of their 16-1 start to the season. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*

Larkin was ranked ninth in the most recent Associated Press Class 4A poll and eighth by one of the Chicago daily newspapers.

Deryn Carter's group was 16-1 overall and 7-0 in Upstate Eight play after wins against Elgin and East Aurora.

Of note in those two conference games, Larkin broke the all-time record for largest margin of victory in the Larkin-Elgin crosstown series. Carter also believes the Royals are off to the best start in school history, as well as the owners of the most consecutive wins in a single season in school history.

The win over East Aurora was key, Carter noted, because both the Royals and Tomcats are embroiled in a race to the finish for the UEC title with Bartlett.

Damari Wheeler-Thomas had 23 points and 13 rebounds in the East Aurora game, while Fernando Perez had 17 points, as did Jakob Blakely.

"Damari Wheeler-Thomas has played at an all-state level all season," said Carter, whose team won the Jacobs holiday tournament. "Fernando has established himself as one of the best players in the area, and Jakob is playing like one of the best sophomores in the state. Dontrell Maxie has been awesome for us in the paint. His rebounding and physicality helps make us special."

Carter certainly likes the direction the Royals are headed. "We have been playing very well lately and have some really big games coming up in the

next two weeks," he said. "I am very excited to see how we respond to the upcoming challenges."

### **Elgin update:**

The Maroons were 3-11 overall and 0-7 in Upstate Eight Conference play to start the week. "We are a young, experienced team working on getting better," coach Todd Allen said.