

– Daily Herald –

Elgin's annual MLK prayer breakfast returns in person to ECC

Jan. 15, 2023

By Madhu Krishnamurthy



Ceremony Host **April Wells** speaks during Elgin's 38th annual prayer breakfast honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Saturday at Elgin Community College. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Elgin's 38th annual prayer breakfast celebration honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. returned in person Saturday at Elgin Community College.

Event co-chair Janice Hare kicked off the celebration with an uplifting speech in front of a packed audience.

"It was just wonderful to see everybody in that room today," said Danise Habun, co-chair of the celebration committee. "This year, we just kind of came back with a bang awarding 12 scholarships, four humanitarian awards. It was just beautiful."

Twelve seniors from three high schools -- **Larkin in Elgin, South Elgin** and Elgin Academy -- were awarded scholarships, given annually to students who have demonstrated an active interest and meaningful involvement in the areas of human rights, civil rights, social justice and/or world peace. The award amount ranges from \$500 to \$1,000.

The prayer breakfast is part of the Elgin Human Relations Commission's weekend of activities celebrating King.

The weekend celebration includes the Illinois premiere of the documentary "Invented Before You Were Born." It will be screened for free from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday in the **Larkin High School** auditorium. The film follows the story of white siblings Jonathan and Rachel Knight. They discover they are the descendants of a Kentucky slave owner who freed 65 enslaved people and gave them land, homes, tools and money to establish themselves as free Blacks in America.

Traci Ellis -- an author, Larkin High School graduate and former Elgin Area School District U-46 school board member -- is among the descendants of the freed people.

A Q&A session featuring filmmakers Jonathan Knight and Le Datta Grimes, as well as Ellis will follow.

Daily Herald staff photographers Brian Hill and Rick West contributed to this report.

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Latina library trustee

Jan. 16, 2023

By Madhu Krishnamurthy

Elisa Lara joins the Gail Borden Public Library District Board after she was appointed to fill the term of Trustee John Kokoris, who recently resigned. That term expires in April.



Elisa Lara

Lara is a community outreach nurse for VNA Health Care in Elgin. She is a member of the Elgin Hispanic Network, City of Elgin Human Relations Commission and the Latino Treatment Center Board. She also has served on the Coalition of Safe and Healthy Elgin Board and other community organizations.

"I am honored and privileged," said Lara, a graduate of Elgin Area School District U-46 schools. "I look forward to collaborating with the community and board to advocate for the library and literacy."

Lara has a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Northern Illinois University.

"Elisa has been such an important part of our recent Pandemic Team efforts and our 2020 Census campaign, we are happy that she has agreed to serve," said Carole Medal, Gail Borden Public Library District CEO. "The library district will benefit greatly from her connections throughout the community."

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

– Daily Herald –

Larkin ends game on 25-3 run to pull away from Elgin

Jan. 13, 2023

By Craig Brueske



Elgin's Angel Nuñez (3) fouls Larkin's Jakob Blakley (10) on his way to the hoop Friday, January 13, 2023 in Elgin. Brian Hill | Staff Photographer



Elgin's Nate Aquino (4) slips past **Larkin's Darnell Wilder** (13) Friday, January 13, 2023 in Elgin. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



Nate Aquino (4) slips down the lane past **Larkin's Tramare Reed** (3) Friday, January 13, 2023 in Elgin. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



Elgin's Maddox Hollian (24) is pressured by **Larkin's Jakob Blakley** (10) Friday, January 13, 2023 in Elgin. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



Elgin's Maddox Hollian (24) feeds the ball to his teammate Friday, January 13, 2023 in Elgin. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



Elgin's Angel Nuñez (3) tries to stop a shot by **Larkin's Darnell Wilder (13)** Friday January 13, 2023 in Elgin. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



Larkin's Jakob Blakley puts up a floater over **Elgin's Ismael Martinez (1)** Friday in Elgin. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



Elgin's Maddox Hollian (24) splits **Larkin's** defense Friday, January 13, 2023 in Elgin. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



Elgin's Ismael Martinez (1) fouls **Larkin's Josh Hibbett (1)** on his way to the hoop during a fast break Friday January 13, 2023 in Elgin. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*



Larkin's Jasavion Rogers-Sowers (2) loses the ball after colliding with **Elgin's Kristian Davis (25)** Friday January 13, 2023 in Elgin.
Brian Hill | Staff Photographer



Elgin's Ismael Martinez (1) pressures Larkin's Jakob Blakley (10)
Friday, January 13, 2023 in Elgin. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

Hard-nosed defense has been a common staple of Larkin's basketball program in recent years.

This season, however, has been a little different story, according to Royals coach Deryn Carter.

"It hasn't been that way this year for us," Carter said of the team's defensive prowess.

That tough man-to-man, trapping defense returned during Larkin's 67-38 Upstate Eight Conference victory over cross-town rival Elgin (8-11, 1-8) Friday night on the Royals' home floor.

After holding the Maroons without a field goal for the final 5 ½ minutes of the opening half while building a 37-24 halftime advantage, the Royals (7-11, 5-4) clamped down once again in the second half, not allowing a basket for more than 10 ½ minutes.

Leading 42-35 with 3:09 left in the third quarter, the Royals went on a 25-0 run over the next 10-plus minutes to seal the decision.

"We need to be that and we haven't been that," Carter said of his team's tough defense.

"Hopefully, this is a good stepping stone to build off defensively."

Junior guard Jakob Blakley, who scored a game-high 24 points with 4 rebounds, agreed with his head coach.

"I think our defense was the difference, getting those stops -- especially those turnovers where they (Maroons) threw it out of bounds or those steals where they threw it right to us. Our defense changed the outcome of that game."

Adrian York added 12 points for the Royals, while Logan Leaver and Darnell Wilder chipped in with 9 and 8 points, respectively.

Larkin received a huge lift from its bench, which outscored **Elgin's** reserves, 22-2.

"They came in and provided a spark for us," said Carter.

"For the most part, I was happy with what our guys brought to the table."

Sidelined since last summer by an injury, Blakley appears to be rounding into form quickly since his return to the court late last month.

"I feel like speed-wise, I'm 100 percent," said Blakley, who shot 7 for 13 with a pair of 3-pointers. "Because I took six months off, some of my reads still aren't there. It takes some time to come back, especially on my transition layups."

Carter feels the same transition taking place with his team.

"Playing the first half of the season without 'Cheese' (Blakley), and then in and out, in and out of the lineup, we're trying to get our rhythm for sure," said Carter.

"We've got another one tomorrow (at Prairie Ridge), but I think we're moving in the right direction."

Junior guard Maddox Hollian had 16 points and 12 rebounds for **Elgin**.

"The effort is there, but we deviate from our plan at times," said **Elgin** coach Brett Johnson.

"We had to play a workmanlike game against them tonight, and we got away from that when their pressure got to us."

The **Maroons** took some positives from the loss.

"I asked them in the locker room, 'how did this compare to last year when you lost by 70 (87-17) and 66 (86-20)?'" said Johnson. "They felt like the game was competitive."

Prior to the boys' game, **Larkin's** girls defeated **Elgin** 56-50 behind a 28-point performance from senior forward Baylei Johnson, who recently topped the career 1,000-point and 1,000-rebound marks. Freshman Sanaii McPherson added 12 points for the **Royals** (9-10, 6-4).

Elgin (7-14, 0-10) was led by Alyssa Wysuph's 17 points. Izzie Castro and Izzy Vidallo added 13 and 11 points, respectively.

– Daily Herald –

South Elgin stops Bartlett, improves to 8-1 in UEC

Jan. 13, 2023

By Dave Hess

South Elgin must have felt like a heavyweight boxer.

The **Storm** absorbed every punch **Bartlett** dished out, got off the mat and eventually won the bout.

Spearheaded by 22 points from Elias Cole Williams which included a resounding dunk to end the game, the host **Storm** edged **Bartlett** 66-61 in Upstate Eight Conference action in **South Elgin** Friday night.

"We have lost games like this," said **South Elgin coach Phil Church**. "**Bartlett** kept coming, We showed a lot of growth and it is a testament to these kids."

Cole Williams, who was 10-of-15 from the floor, added 8 rebounds with 3 assists for the **Storm** (11-8, 8-1).

"The dunk at the end was awesome, " said Cole-Williams. "I loved it. This was a great win. We knew we couldn't relax. We had to push hard."

Church is enjoying the progress of Cole-Williams.

"Eli is starting to get some schools to notice him," said the Storm coach. "He is going to garner more defensive attention. He had a great game."

Jake Tiaokhiao added 17 points with a pair of 3-pointers and Victor Sison contributed 15 with 2 treys.

Connecting on 5-of-8 from 3-point range, the Storm led 33-17 with 3:36 left in the first half.

Bartlett (13-6, 6-3) kept its poise and ended the half on a 14-5 run to slice South Elgin's lead to 38-31 at intermission. Ethan Hedeem had 5 points including a 3, Martin McCarthy scored 4 points and Kelton McEwen buried a 3 during the Hawks' comeback.

Bartlett methodically whittled away at South Elgin's lead and eventually tied the game at 59 on a layup from Keegan Kunzer with 1:10 left. Bartlett couldn't get any closer.

Hedeem, in his first start, scored 17 points with four 3-pointers.

"Ethan was phenomenal in his first start," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "He played great."

Playing without leading scorer Nathan Searce, Kunzer scored 12 and McEwen added 10.

"We didn't defend early and we were impatient," said Wolfsmith. "We didn't get enough stops at the end. They knocked down free throws and we didn't (9-of-18)."

– Elgin Courier-News –

BOYS BASKETBALL

Something Wilder

Senior guard sparks big second quarter with 6 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals and 2 assists for Larkin



Larkin's Darnell Wilder (13) finishes off a layup against **Elgin** on Friday.

H. Rick Bamman/Beacon-News

Jan. 15, 2023

By Patrick McGavin for Naperville Sun

Senior guard Darnell Wilder has settled on his identity for **Larkin**.

Even though the Royals have been searching this season for the best way to fuse the different pieces of their team together, Wilder is secure about his role in the process.

“I just know whenever I am out there, I have to bring the energy and set the tone,” Wilder said. “I wanted to be the one who changed our focus and level of intensity.”

The 5-foot-11 Wilder, who relies upon a defensive menace, ball-hawking attitude in his capacity as an all-around player, was referring to the start of the second quarter.

He scored eight points in the first half Friday night, sparking host **Larkin** to a 67-38 Upstate Eight Conference win over archrival **Elgin**. And the second quarter was key.

Larkin (7-11, 5-4) broke the game open with a 15-2 closing burst at the end of that tell-tale quarter. Wilder started it off in style, opening with a steal and breakaway.

He scored six of his points for the **Royals** during that crucial surge. He also had four rebounds, three steals and two assists.

“This is my third year on the varsity,” Wilder said. “I started out trying to shoot the basket, but right now, I’m really trying to focus on how to be the best defender on the team.”

Junior guard Jakob Blakley scored a game-high 24 points for the **Royals**. Senior guard Adrian Colen-York had 13 points, four rebounds and two steals.

Junior guard Logan Leaver scored nine points on three 3-pointers.

Junior guard Maddox Hollian led **Elgin** (8-11, 1-8) with 16 points. He scored 14 of **Elgin’s** first 21 points as the Maroons hovered around the **Royals**.

The left-handed Hollian, who’s averaging 18 points, showed the ability to knock down perimeter shots. He also used jab steps and quickness to get to the basket.

“I like to get to the midrange of the floor and pull up,” Hollian said. “When I get into the paint, I like to get the ball to our shooters in the corner.

“Once teams see me hit the first couple of shots, they realize I’m a shooter and guys start coming out to close out. That creates driving opportunities.”

Junior forward Angel Nunez was the beneficiary for **Elgin**. He nailed two 3-pointers during the third quarter and finished with nine points.

Larkin, however, allowed just five baskets in the second half.

Colen-York and Wilder helped put the clamps on Hollian in the second half, limiting him to just one basket.

“This is my third year on the varsity, but my game has evolved during that time,” Colen-York said. “I have gotten in much better condition, and I just improved.

“Like most guys, I came in thinking about naturally wanting to score and see what I could do offensively. I like my defense. I also like having the ball in my hands. I was able to do some things off the dribble and get to the basket.”

Last season, the **Royals** reached a Class 4A supersectional, losing to eventual state champion Glenbard West.

The rivalry game against **Elgin** offered necessary toughness and direction.

“Our starting lineup never really played together until this year,” Wilder said. “We knew (Friday night) was the time to really get our season together.

“We haven’t really been playing with a lot of energy. (Friday night) was the chance to really turn it on.”

Wilder’s defense during the second quarter turned the tide. **Larkin** then scored the first 19 points of the fourth to turn the game into a rout.

“There’s a lot of basketball left and we’re trying to win a regional,” Wilder said. “This is our first time of really playing together.

“We are just trying to figure things out from here.”

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LOCAL SCOREBOARD

Jan. 15, 2023

From Staff Reports

FRIDAY’S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Andrew 57, Lincoln-Way Central 45

Andrew (9-9, 1-1 SWSC Red): Nate LaPlant 17 points, 6 assists. Athan Berchos 16 points. Grantas Sakenis 14 points, 5 rebounds.

Aurora Christian 67, Chicago Christian 43

Aurora Christian (14-5, 2-2 Metro Suburban Blue): Cam Morel 23 points. Victor Nyong 13 points.

Beecher 79, Momence 36

Beecher (19-1, 8-0 River Valley): Jack Hayhurst 19 points. Adyn McGinley 15 points. Zack Johnson 13 points. Rio Llamas 10 points.

Benet 72, Joliet Catholic 44

JCA (9-9, 2-6 ESCC): Drew Willis 10 points.

Bloom 72, Thornridge 39

Bloom (12-5, 5-0 Southland): Santana Flowers 16 points, 10 rebounds. Raeshom Harris 15 points, 4 assists. Elijah Lovemore 12 points, 10 assists. Jordan Brown 10 points, 6 assists.

Bolingbrook 76, Homewood-Flossmoor 71

Bradley-Bourbonnais 47, Lockport 38

Lockport (12-6): Jalen Falcon 22 points.

Brother Rice 55, Fenwick 40

Byron 56, Genoa-Kingston 49

Crystal Lake South 51, Hampshire 43

De La Salle 64, Montini 47

De La Salle (12-7, 4-3 CCL White): Richard Lindsey 15 points. Evan Jackson 12 points. Charles Barnes 11 points.

Deerfield 46, Vernon Hills 37

Deerfield (12-4, 4-1 Central Suburban North): Miles Cohan 12 points. Drew Rodgers, Quinn Schimanski 10 points.

DePaul Prep 51, Leo 28

East Aurora 62, West Chicago 35

Fenton 64, Streamwood 27

Geneva 61, Belvidere North 47

Harvest Christian 60, Mooseheart 29

Hinckley-Big Rock 69, Earlville 45

Hinckley-Big Rock (15-5, 6-0 Little Ten): Martin Ledbetter 20 points, 15 rebounds. Ben Hintzsche 19 points, 6 rebounds.

Huntley 51, Dundee-Crown 50

Jacobs 64, Prairie Ridge 54

Kaneland 62, Sandwich 53

Kaneland (17-3, 8-0 Interstate Eight): Gevon Grant 21 points. Troyer Carlson 11 points. Brad Franck 10 points.

Kankakee 79, Rich Township 59

Larkin 67, Elgin 38

Lincoln-Way East 68, Sandburg 50

Lincoln-Way East (16-1, 1-0 SWSC Blue): Tylon Tolliver 23 points. George Bellevue 17 points, 10 rebounds. B.J. Powell 10 points.

Sandburg (7-12, 0-1): Yanal Swaiss 12 points. Walter Davis 10 points.

Maine West 59, Highland Park 58

Marist 62, Marian Catholic 56

Marist (17-4, 6-2 ESCC): Kaden White 19 points. Keshawn Vaval 11 points. Mason Ross, Adoni Vassilakis 10 points.

Marian (13-6, 4-4): Quentin Jones 19 points.

Metea Valley 73, Naperville Central 49

Oak Lawn 53, Lemont 51

Oak Lawn (12-6, 4-2 SSC Red): Ayham Salah 14 points.

Oswego 63, Plainfield South 47

Oswego East 72, Joliet West 59

Oswego East (17-4, 9-0 Southwest Prairie West): Mehki Lowery 18 points. Ryan Johnson 15 points. Bryce Shoto 12 points. Mason Blanco 10 points.

Ottawa 61, Plano 52

Plano (5-16, 1-7 Interstate Eight): Sam Sifuentes 13 points.

St. Edward 58, Westmont 34

St. Laurence 69, Providence-St. Mel 34

St. Laurence (14-7, 2-3 CCL White): E.J. Mosley 18 points. Khalil Jones 15 points. Jacob Rice 14 points.

Shepard 52, Argo 49

Shepard (9-8, 2-4 SSC Red): Jermell Lymon 14 points.

Argo (4-15, 1-6): Davonte Evans 18 points.

Somonauk 69, Indian Creek 51

Somonauk (7-13, 4-2 Little Ten): Coleton Eade, Carson Bahrey 23 points.

Indian Creek (5-14, 1-5): Logan Schrader 12 points. Jeffrey Probst 10 points.

South Elgin 66, Bartlett 61

Stagg 65, Lincoln-Way West 59

Stagg (10-9, 1-0 SWSC Red): Connor Williams 13 points. Domas Narcevicius 11 points. David Ortiz 10 points.

Thornton 51, Crete-Monee 40

Thornwood 75, Harlan 35

Tinley Park 70, Richards 64

Tinley (8-9, 5-1 SSC Blue): Amarion Johnson 23 points. Cameren Ellis 15 points. Indion Aurel 11 points.

Richards (7-12, 2-5 SSC Red): La'Terion Colbert 13 points.

West Aurora 77, Joliet Central 45

West Aurora (13-7, 6-3 Southwest Prairie West): Terrence Smith 32 points.

Yorkville 56, Plainfield Central 39

Yorkville (16-3, 7-2 Southwest Prairie West): Jory Boley, Kaevian Johnson 12 points each. LeBaron Lee, Jacob Homerding 10 points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Deerfield 72, Vernon Hills 51

Deerfield (16-4, 7-0 Central Suburban North): Nikki Kerstein 21 points, 7 assists, 6 rebounds. Lexi Kerstein 18 points, 5 assists, 4 steals. Olivia Kerndt 14 points, 6 rebounds, 4 steals.

Vernon Hills (12-9, 5-2): Grace Koepke 26 points.

Grayslake Central 61, Wheeling 48

Hampshire 46, Crystal Lake South 32

Hampshire (13-7, 7-1 Fox Valley): Whitney Thompson 14 points.

Huntley 55, Dundee-Crown 26

Larkin 56, Elgin 50

Elgin (7-14): Alyssa Wysuph 17 points. Izzie Castro 13 points. Izzy Vidallo 11 points.

Libertyville 40, Stevenson 38

Libertyville (17-3, 7-1 North Suburban): Emily Fisher GW basket as time expired.

Stevenson (15-7, 5-3): Emory Klatt 22 points.

Lincoln-Way West 63, Amundsen 27

Lincoln-Way West (15-5): Ava Gugliuzza 26 points.

Maine West 32, Highland Park 30

Marian Catholic 39, Andrean (Ind.) 35

Marian (17-3): Alainna Poisson 14 points. Madison Davis 12 points.

Naperville North 55, Waubonsie Valley 39

Prairie Ridge 38, Jacobs 28

Rockford Christian 55, Genoa-Kingston 48

Shepard 40, Argo 35

Argo (8-8, 4-3 SSC Red): Apple Guerrero 14 points, 13 rebounds. Jada Madgett 13 points, 10 rebounds.

West Aurora 51, Joliet Central 28

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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