

Press Clippings for January 23, 2023

– NBC5 Chicago –

Video Shows Audience Help Suburban Cheer Group Finish Routine After Music Stops

Jan. 20, 2023



A major technical issue at a cheerleading competition in the west suburbs quickly turned into a heartwarming moment of collaboration after the speakers cut out the music near the beginning of West Chicago's performance.

A major technical issue at a cheerleading competition in the west suburbs quickly turned into a heartwarming moment of collaboration after the speakers cut out the music near the beginning of West Chicago's performance.

Just seconds into West Chicago's performance at a conference-wide competition held at an Elgin high school, the music accompanying the team's routine suddenly stopped.

As the large crowd in the gymnasium collectively groaned, the cheerleaders were not phased at all, continuing their performance as if the music was still blaring through the speakers.

The moment grew more special, as opposing teams, parents and coaches began a four-count rhythmic chant to help West Chicago's cheer team lock into a beat.

With the return of music failing twice more during their performance, the crowd continued to chant louder, helping to will West Chicago through a seamless performance under extraordinary circumstances.

To view the video, please click [here](#).

– Daily Herald –

It's good for kids and the environment. So why aren't more students walking to school?

Jan. 23, 2023

By Marni Pyke

Watch students converge on many suburban schools in the morning and you'll see some walkers, a posse of buses and an inevitable car line stretching down the street.

It wasn't always that way, Federal Highway Administration data shows.

In 1969, 42% of kids walked or biked to school and just 16% arrived in private vehicles. Come 2017, that ratio flipped with 54% of children being dropped off by car and just 10.4% on foot or bikes, according to the National Household Travel Survey.

What happened to walking to school? The shift started when new subdivisions sprouted up in older towns, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's Victoria Barrett explained.

More families caused crowded schools, which many districts solved by building new ones on affordable land on the outskirts of towns.

"It made schools more auto-oriented," said Barrett, a senior transportation planner. "Access by cars was made easier and faster with big drop-off points. Parents have been encouraged to bring their child/children as close to the door as possible, which really is counterintuitive to the benefits of walking before a long school day,

"It also increases the risks to the children who are on foot and on bicycle by increasing traffic volumes near school entry points."

The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages walking or biking to school when possible because it contributes to the 60 minutes of physical exercise kids need daily, combats the obesity epidemic in children and reduces air pollution.

"Walking to school, if it's safe and doable, is a bit of a no-brainer," said Dr. Alison Tothy, a Chicago-area pediatric emergency medicine specialist.

Walking with your kids to school is also a perfect opportunity to instill basic safety skills, Lake County sheriff's Lt. Michael Keller said.

On the way, parents should point out concerns and offer solutions, he advised. "For instance, 'Cars backing out of driveways may not see you -- so you should stop if you see a car backing out.'"

For first-timers, [Barrett recommends](#) scouting the route beforehand to gauge timing and hazards.

If your schedule doesn't allow daily walking, once a week or once a month is still worth it, experts say. Barrett also suggests teaming up with neighbors who walk.

"When you teach children walking and biking are safe, effective, fun modes of transportation, you're really cultivating the next generation of travelers," she said.

When is it safe for kids to walk solo? In general, adults should accompany children until they are around age 10, authorities like Keller and Tothy recommend.

Younger children typically can't judge how quickly a car is approaching and how far away it is, Tothy said.

But there's more to it than age, she noted.

"You have to be able to follow rules. You have to be able to pay attention to your surroundings and know if you're in a safe environment," Tothy said. "Not all kids are able or ready to do that."

The [National Center for Safe Routes to School](#), which offers resources and links for parents, annually grades states on their efforts. Illinois does a good job at distributing funding for

safety projects but falls short in offering a comprehensive plan for young pedestrians, a 2022 report concluded.

Local entities vary greatly on guidance for walkers. The city of Naperville and Elmhurst [Unit District 205](#) provide detailed maps online, while [Elgin U-46's student handbook](#) offers safety tips.

Encouraging walking is a win-win, Naperville Traffic Engineer An "A lot of our older schools in older neighborhoods aren't really set up for a lot of pickups and drop-offs," Hynes said. "The more kids that can walk helps with traffic in surrounding neighborhoods, and there's the health aspect."

You should know

Vroom, vroom. The Chicago Auto Show is coming to town Feb. 11- 20 at McCormick Place in Chicago, and we have tickets. To win a pair, email mpyke@dailyherald.com and describe what piques your interest this year. Or share your thoughts about car buying in 2023, interest rates and repair costs.

– Chicago Tribune –

Elgin News Digest: EYSO receives \$10,000 grant for Starting Strings program ...

Jan. 21, 2023

By Mike Danahey - The Courier-News

EYSO receives \$10,000 grant for Starting Strings program

The Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra has been awarded a \$10,000 National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Grant for its Starter Strings program.

National Endowment grants are presented to organizations that help bring support for the arts to underserved communities.

The Starter Strings program seeks to remove classical education barriers by providing free string instrument lessons to more than 70 students at [Oakhill Elementary School in](#)

Streamwood and Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School in Elgin, the EYSO said in a news release.

For more information, go to www.eyso.org.

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

– Daily Herald –

Elgin man charged with stalking students walking home from school

Jan. 21, 2023

By Christopher Placek

An Elgin man was charged with two felony counts of stalking Saturday after police say he made inappropriate comments to girls walking home from a nearby middle school.

Alan S. Rendon, 25, of the 500 block of North Grove Avenue, appeared in court Saturday morning where a Kane County judge set his bond at \$100,000. Rendon would need to post \$10,000 to be released.

A female student from Abbott Middle School told police Wednesday that a man had been making inappropriate statements to female students walking home from school between 3:30 and 4 p.m.

Police said the suspect was also observed following students in his vehicle in the 300-400 block of Standish Street.

Elgin Area School District U-46 notified parents of the incident, and police provided extra patrols in the area during dismissal.

– Daily Herald –

Two leaders overseeing District 214 upon longtime superintendent's departure

Jan. 21, 2023

By Christopher Placek

Co-interim superintendents took the helm of Northwest Suburban High School District 214 Friday as the search continues for outgoing Superintendent David Schuler's permanent replacement.

District 214 Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Laz Lopez and retired Community Unit District 300 Superintendent Ken Arndt will share responsibilities overseeing the state's second-largest high school district until a new schools chief is in place this summer.

Lopez, who is currently paid \$213,473 a year in the top administrative role in charge of curriculum, is getting a \$18,500 stipend for the added duties, under an amendment to his contract approved by the school board Thursday night. He's been Schuler's right hand on academic matters for the last decade, following the 13 years previous as the Wheeling High School principal and a John Hersey High School teacher.

Arndt -- a consultant with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, the superintendent search firm the district hired in December -- will be paid \$1,000 for every day he works for the district. He served in similar interim roles in the past for District 300 and **Elgin Area School District U-46**.

Arndt was one of six candidates the Schaumburg-based search firm brought to the school board to fill Schuler's position on an interim basis.

Schuler's last day in District 214 is Feb. 24 -- and officials say he'll be available as a resource to Lopez, Arndt and the school board until then -- but since Jan. 1 he's already been executive director-designate at the Alexandria, Virginia-based AASA, the national School

Superintendents Association. Schuler is transitioning with that organization's retiring leader, Daniel Domenech.

"What it does for the board and what it does for the process and the search firm is it adds another layer of decisions that had to be made," school board President Bill Dussling said of the co-interim superintendents appointment. "Another layer of interviews that had to take place. And a decision process that got us to the point of having to decide if we wanted two co-superintendents."

Dussling said Lopez will be charged with handling the daily district operational duties involving curriculum, budget and other initiatives. Arndt will serve as the "face" to the community as the primary point of contact for parents, will sit at the board table during meetings, and be the superintendent of record for state and federal compliance purposes, officials said.

The day before the appointments, the board and search firm released a public online survey for students, staff, parents and community members to share their thoughts about desired characteristics in a new superintendent. The survey, at hyasurvey.com/District214SurveyEN, is open until Feb. 1, and will be used to put together a leadership profile report.

Virtual community forums on Zoom are scheduled for 10 a.m. Jan. 30 and 7 p.m. Jan. 31.

In-person community forums are scheduled at 7 p.m. Jan. 30 and 10 a.m. Jan. 31 at the Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Road in Arlington Heights.

Initial interviews with the board are scheduled for early March and a second round of interviews in late March, according to a preliminary timeline.

A new superintendent could be named by April and start the job in July.

"This is a fairly fast process for a search, but by the same token, we're doing it very much in-depth and we're trying to do it at a very broad basis as well," Dussling said.

After 17 years at the helm, Thursday marked the last official board meeting with Schuler on the dais at Forest View. The board will host a public reception for him at 6 p.m. Feb. 9, before the next board meeting.

– Journal & Topics –

Dist. 214 Names Arndt, Lopez Co-Superintendents

Jan. 20, 2023

By Noah Festenstein

As the search continues for a new Township High School Dist. 214 superintendent, the district has decided on a pair of temporary co-superintendents.

According to the district, retired Supt. Kenneth Arndt and Dist. 214 Associate Supt. for Teaching and Learning Lazaro Lopez will serve as co-superintendents while the district searches for a permanent candidate.

Current Supt. David Schuler announced in November that he would step down as superintendent in mid-February for his new role as executive director of the American Association of School Administrators. Since then, Dist. 214 has held closed session meetings to discuss next steps. The district also said that an announcement of a permanent superintendent is expected in April.

“We are confident that the skills and abilities of Dr. Arndt and Dr. Lopez will provide the continuity needed during this period of transition,” Dist. 214 Board President Bill Dussling said.

As stated in the district announcement, Dr. Arndt’s resume includes more than 45 years in education as a social studies teacher, school administrator, and district superintendent in the Northwest and West suburbs. He led Algonquin-based Community Unit School Dist. 300 from 2001 to 2011 as its superintendent before retiring and since then has served as a consultant, adjunct professor, and interim superintendent for Dist. 300 and **Elgin-based School Dist. U-46**. Arndt will be the primary point of contact for parents and community members and serve as the superintendent of record for state and federal compliance purposes.

Lopez has served Dist. 214 for 23 years. Before working in education, he served in the military and private sector, the district stated. He taught at Hersey High School and was principal of Wheeling High School, where he was named the Illinois Principal of the Year. Since 2013, Lopez has served as Dist. 214 associate superintendent for teaching and learning. He will continue these duties, while he serves as co-interim superintendent. Lopez will primarily focus on daily operational activities and leading initiatives already in progress.

Support local news by subscribing to the Journal & Topics [in print](#) or [online](#).

– Arlington Patch –

District 214 Names Co-Interim Superintendents

The search for a permanent successor to David Schuler, who steps down next month, will continue.

Jan. 20, 2023

Eric DeGrechie - Patch Staff

The district is hoping to announce a new hire to replace Schuler in April.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL — The search for a new superintendent at Township High School District 214 will continue as two veteran administrators have been hired to temporarily assume the role next month. According to the district, retired superintendent Kenneth Arndt and Lazaro Lopez, current District 214 associate superintendent, will share duties when David Schuler steps down in February.

Schuler, who has been at the helm for the past 17 years, is set to take over as executive director of AASA, the national School Superintendents Association.

In making the decision to have co-superintendents, the board of education noted this arrangement has worked in other districts when a vacancy has occurred during the school year. The district is hoping to announce a new hire in April.

"We are confident that the skills and abilities of Dr. Arndt and Dr. Lopez will provide the continuity needed during this period of transition," Board President Bill Dussling said.

District 214, headquartered in Arlington Heights, is the second-largest high school district by enrollment in Illinois. It serves most of Wheeling Township and Elk Grove Township, as well as a portion of Palatine. Arndt brings more than 45 years in education as a social studies teacher, school administrator, and district superintendent in the Northwest and West suburbs. He led Algonquin-based Community Unit School District 300 from 2001 to 2011 as its superintendent before retiring and since has served as a consultant, adjunct professor, and interim superintendent for District 300 and Elgin-based School District U-46. The district said Arndt will be the primary point of contact for parents and community members and serve as the superintendent of record for state and federal compliance purposes.

Lopez has served District 214 for 23 years. Before working in education, Dr. Lopez served in the military and private sector. He taught at Hersey High School and was principal of Wheeling High School, where he was named the Illinois Principal of the Year. Since 2013, Lopez has served as 214's associate superintendent for teaching and learning. According to the district, he will continue these duties, while serving in the new role. Lopez will primarily focus on daily operational activities and leading initiatives already in progress.

– Daily Herald –

Fox girls basketball notes: Elgin City Classic going strong in 10th season

Jan. 19, 2023

By Craig Brueske



Baylei Johnson, pictured in this file photo, led **Larkin** into the championship game of the Elgin City Classic against rival **Elgin**. Both teams won their first three games of the 10th annual tourney, and **Larkin** took home the title with a win Wednesday night. *Daily Herald file photo*

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this season, the Elgin City Classic highlights the best of high school girls basketball in what is called "The City In the Suburbs."

The 20-game event features 5 Elgin schools -- **Elgin**, Harvest Christian, **Larkin**, St. Edward, and Westminster Christian in a 2-week event held at rotating gyms in Elgin.

The idea originated more than a decade ago by **Elgin girls basketball coach Dr. Nick Bumbales**.

"It started in 2013," said Bumbales. "I like that the Elgin City Classic highlights each of the Elgin schools and the girls get to visit each facility and experience playing there. We have even played at "The Pit" at **old Elgin High School** in the past."

Larkin girls basketball coach Stephen Knapp credits Bumbales for his insightfulness in establishing the tournament and keeping the annual event on course.

"Doc (Bumbales) has done a great job organizing this tournament for years," said Knapp. "It creates an atmosphere within the girls **(Elgin) high school** programs to compete against each other year in and year out. It is good to see the growth of the programs and see the coaches every year."

There is an added benefit.

"It is a nice tournament that gives us many games to play before the state playoffs begin next month," said Knapp.

Through the first 3 games of the tournament, **Elgin** (7-16) and **Larkin** (12-10) owned identical 3-0 records heading into Wednesday's clash that decided the 2023 Elgin City Classic champion -- which the **Royals** won, 65-49.

Last Friday, **Larkin** edged **Elgin** 56-50 in Upstate Eight Conference action.

Larkin, which defeated Westminster Christian 42-10 last Saturday, began the tourney with a 54-32 victory over Harvest Christian on Jan. 9, as senior forward/center Baylei Johnson scored a game-high 21 points and freshman guard Mia Carter had 10 points. Junior Gabrielle Ploche and freshman Sanaii McPherson added 7 points apiece.

Sophomore Daphne Brown led the Lions (6-10) with 13 points, 5 assists, 4 rebounds and 4 steals, while junior Katie McClure had 6 points.

Johnson scored 24 points and grabbed 17 rebounds in the **Royals'** 42-27 win over St. Edward on Jan. 11. The Green Wave (5-17) opened the tourney with a 44-12 victory over Westminster Christian on Jan. 7. St. Edward led 29-4 at halftime and 42-8 after 3 quarters.

Harvest Christian finished 2-2 in the Elgin City Classic following Saturday's 55-44 win over St. Edward. Brown led the Lions with 16 points, 5 rebounds and 5 assists, while Katie Dickman added 15 points and 8 boards.

Elgin began the tourney with a 55-36 win over Harvest Christian on Jan. 7, before clipping St. Edward, 42-33, on Jan. 9. The **Maroons** remained unbeaten in Elgin City Classic play with last week's 48-22 victory over Westminster Christian.

Elgin's leading scorers in the tournament include Alyssa Wysuph (14.3 ppg), Izzy Vidallo (7.3 ppg), Jocelyn Bardesi (6.0 ppg), Izzie Castro (5.7 ppg), and Kelly Taruc (3.3 ppg).

Mathitha Ratakonda, Trinity Evans and Aamiyah Dixon have also contributed for the **Maroons**.

Brown had 14 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists for Harvest against **Elgin**.

St. Charles East celebrated the life of Lloyd Jones, the Saints' "Super Fan," during the Saints' Alumni Night game against Geneva on Jan. 10.

Former Saints standouts Katie Claussner and Ashley DiOrio spoke briefly before the game, talking about Jones, who passed away in February of 2021 at the age of 87. Jones was one of the school's most loyal supporters who could be found sitting in his customary spot along the wall just to the right of the main entrance to the gym.

Claussner and DiOrio started a GoFundMe page that raised more than \$3,200 used to buy a customized stadium chair with Jones' name on it and "Forever A Saint" printed on the front cushion, as well as a plaque that hangs on the west gym wall above the chair. The remainder of the money was donated to Jones' sons, Kyle, and Glenn.

St. Charles East's athletic family also lost a genuine gem in Mike Harland, who passed away on Dec. 4 at the age of 74.

Harland, who worked as a dean's assistant at St. Charles East, also served as a freshman girls basketball assistant coach for the Saints. In addition, Mike served as an usher at Kane County Cougars games since 2006.

"Mike did everything here at St. Charles East," said Saints athletic director Mike Sommerfeld. "He helped with parking at football games and was always lending a hand at our athletic events."

Prior to hosting its third annual MLK Showdown Monday, Batavia (12-10) split a pair of games at the New Year's Classic earlier this month in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Brooke Carlson scored 24 points with 4 assists, 3 rebounds and 3 steals in Batavia's 60-52 victory over Somerset Academy Silver Palms (Miami) on Jan. 6. Addie Prewitt chipped in with 12 points, 8 rebounds and 3 assists, while Kylee Gehrt added 7 points and 3 rebounds. Somerset (12-3) was ranked 21st in Florida, and 3rd in 3A.

The next day, the Bulldogs dropped a 68-52 decision to Westminster Academy (Fort Lauderdale), the 7th-ranked team in Florida and 2nd in 3A. Carlson led Batavia with 22 points, 3 assists and 3 steals.

— Daily Herald —

Boys basketball: Fenton digs deep for comeback Upstate Eight win over Bartlett

Jan. 19, 2023

By Gregg Voss



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Fenton's **Bartlett's** in a boys basketball game in Bensenville on Thursday, January 19, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Bartlett's Marty McCarthy stretches to take the ball from Fenton's Alejandro Diaz in a boys basketball game in Bensenville on Thursday, January 19, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Fenton's Caleb Lewis is grabbed by **Bartlett's Keegan Kunzer** in a boys basketball game in Bensenville on Thursday, January 19, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com **Bartlett's Marty McCarthy** throws an outlet pass against Fenton's Alejandro Diaz in a boys basketball game in Bensenville on Thursday, January 19, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com **Bartlett's Kelton Mcewen** knocks the ball away from Fenton's Alejandro Diaz in a boys basketball game in Bensenville on Thursday, January 19, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com **Bartlett's Marty McCarthy** shoots a one-handed shot over Fenton's Miguel Sanchez in a boys basketball game in Bensenville on Thursday, January 19, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Fenton's Caleb Lewis shoots over Bartlett's Kelton McEwen in a boys basketball game in Bensenville on Thursday, January 19, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com **Bartlett's Nathan Searce** stretches for a rebound against Fenton in a boys basketball game in Bensenville on Thursday, January 19, 2023.

So what if you're down 15 points in the first half?

Was it a problem for the Fenton boys basketball team Thursday night?

Nah. The Bison just dug a little deeper, especially in the fourth quarter of its 68-63 Upstate Eight win over visiting **Bartlett**.

Senior Nicholas Tinajero and junior Alejandro Diaz played Batman and Robin to the tune of 12 and 8 points in the fourth to reverse a 50-44 deficit at the end of three quarters.

"It has to start on the defensive end," said Diaz, who led Fenton with 24 points, all in the final three quarters. "We turned quick steals into buckets and just went from there. Everything started clicking on offense."

And how, said Tinajero, who finished with 18 to vault the Bison to an 18-4 record, 10-1 in the

Upstate Eight.

"We all started hitting our shots, man," he said. "We kept moving the ball, getting their defense to shift, get them out of position. We were getting open shots and we were knocking them down. The energy was better."

The **Hawks**, who hit a grand total of 13 three-pointers this night, the antidote to a swarming Fenton zone defense, jumped out to a 30-15 lead midway through the second quarter. Looking good, right?

Wrong. Fenton's theme this season has been to play hard and keep games close before sealing the deal late, and that's what they did in the fourth quarter, starting with a 12-3 run, powered by back-to-back 3s from Tinajero and senior guard Caleb Lewis. A basket and one for Tinajero, and suddenly the Bison were up 55-53.

They never looked back. An 8-1 run and a hatful of free throws put the game away, and staved off a pair of 3s from **Bartlett junior Kelton McEwen and senior Ethan Hedeem** that actually cut the lead to 66-63 with 39.4 seconds to play.

"Just keep attacking and attacking and eventually is going to open up," Fenton coach Chaz Taft said of the fourth-quarter formula. "We just keep fighting."

It was a tough loss for **Bartlett**, which fell to 14-7 and 7-4. McEwen had the lion's share of those 13 3-pointers, nailing 6, including a pair in a key 8-0 run to end the first quarter.

"They had a much better second half," **Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith** said of Fenton. "They played hard. They knocked down shots. Our defense got robbed. We've got to do a better job of playing through that, making decisions. I think we turned over the ball too much in the second half."

Like McEwen, junior Nathan Scarce was back after an injury, and scored 10 points and grabbed 6 rebounds. Hedeem and senior Shush Mangrola each added nine.

– Daily Herald –

Wrestling: South Elgin dominates UEC meet, Glenbard East 2nd

Jan. 22, 2023

By D.J. Wanberg

The **South Elgin Storm** started off the postseason Saturday with a dominating performance at the Upstate Eight Conference wrestling meet at East Aurora High School.

South Elgin racked up 250.5 points with Glenbard East in second at 194 and West Chicago scoring 193.

East Aurora (135), **Bartlett** (112), Fenton (96), **Elgin** (93), Glenbard South (85) and **Larkin and Streamwood** (75 each) followed.

"I thought today went great. We were focused and locked in ready to wrestle," said **Storm coach James Gloudeman**.

The team has a couple of final tuneups this week at Waubonsie Valley and Maine South before Feb. 4's Class 3A **Streamwood** individual regional.

"We'll use this as motivation and keep the foot on the gas pedal and we'll have a full lineup," Gloudeman said.

South Elgin won four individual titles beginning with Demetrios Carrera at 106 pounds with a fall at 2:27. Starting with Andre Rios' fall at 4:48 at 132, the team won three straight weight classes that also included Leo Rosas' 8-4 decision at 138 and Nico Clinite at 145 prevailing due to an injury default.

Glenbard East won two individual championships. Ismael Chaidez won by fall at 3:59 at 120

and Blake Salvino at 182 had his arm raised after a fall in 1:59.

Elgin also went home with two top prizes. Julius Avendano's 11-5 decision at 113 put him on top of the victory stand. Teammate Adam Lambaz closed out the afternoon, winning the 285 crown with a fall at 1:13.

West Chicago's Connor Zentner was 126 champ on a 10-3 decision in the final. **Larkin** got a title courtesy of David Miranda's 9-4 decision at 152.

Fenton's Jovany Zuniga, at 160, made quick work of his final prevailing by fall in just 1:13.

Streamwood's Jack Wolf (195) and East Aurora's Bryan Romero (220) both won by fall in 4:33 and 2:56 respectively.

Each wrestler at Saturday's meet brought an array of different experiences this season and past seasons.

For Rios of **South Elgin**, it was his goal to beat his opponent who had defeated him at conference in 2022.

"I went out to wrestle hard. I thought about the last two matches (Rios had beaten him during the regular season). I was nervous before the match. But then I thought, 'I got this,'" he said. "This means a lot getting a conference title as a senior."

What a difference a year made for Zuniga.

"This is very satisfying. Last year (at conference) I was 0-3. It's a big improvement," he said.

A good portion of the crowd sang "Happy Birthday" as **Elgin's** Lambaz stood on the top of the medals stand.

Lambaz turned 18 Saturday as he earned his second conference title.

"This feels amazing. I couldn't ask for a better birthday present," he said. "I thought I performed very well. With regionals I'm going to continue the hard work and grind out the next two weeks," he said.

– Daily Herald –

WW South pulls away from Larkin

Jan. 21, 2023

By Jared Birchfield

The Wheaton Warrenville South basketball machine chugged into Batavia Saturday for the second varsity contest of the Jim and Sylvia Roberts Night of Hoops.

The Tigers took more than a quarter to get up to speed, but they finally shifted into high gear and downed **Larkin**, 77-43.

"This was our 20th win and we look to keep rolling all the way until March," said Wheaton Warrenville South's Braylen Meredith, who scored a game-high 27 points. His squad has dropped only two contests all season.

The Tigers only led by two after the end of the first quarter, 12-10.

The **Royals** (9-13) took the lead, 13-12 in the first minute of the second quarter on Adrian York's 3-point play. The senior was fouled on an inside basket and connected on the free throw. York led **Royals** scorers with 12 points.

After Meredith's first 3-pointer from the top of the key put his team up 17-15, the Tigers never trailed.

"I missed my first few threes but I didn't pay any attention to that and kept on shooting," the 6-foot-6 senior said. He finished the night with six treys.

Wheaton Warrenville South closed out the half with a 17-9 run to take a 34-26 lead at halftime.

Larkin's Jakob Blakley (11 points) narrowed the margin to seven, 38-31 with a 3-pointer from the right corner at the 5:20 mark of the third quarter. But then Wheaton Warrenville South broke the game wide open, scoring 17 more points by the end of the period while holding **Larkin** to 3 baskets.

The Tigers started the final quarter with a 55-38 lead.

"During the first nine or 10 minutes of the game we were a little slow, but we were good in the second-half," Tigers coach Mike Healy said. "We got a little better defensively. We also did a great job of handling pressure, making good decisions and making that extra pass."

"We weren't good enough to hold them up for long enough. It was a seven-point game midway through the third and we just fell apart," said **Larkin coach Deryn Carter**.

The Tigers also dominated on the glass, outrebounding the Royals 38-20.

"When they did miss some shots, we got beat on the offensive glass. I bet statistically they got 15 to 20 more shot attempts than we did," Carter said. "Our defense was scrambling, we weren't communicating."

Healy is pleased with Meredith's play on both ends of the court.

"(Braylen) has stepped up. He's been our offensive leader the last month and he is playing with confidence," said the Tigers coach. "But the good thing about him is, he's doing it on both ends. He's doing things on the defensive end, too."

Healy also likes what he sees in senior guard Jake Vozza.

"Jake's done a lot of good things in terms of making plays that you don't necessarily see in a stat book," said Healy. "It seemed like he was all over the place. He got us extra possessions."

Both Colin Moore and Luca Carbonaro scored in double digits for WW South. Moore tallied 12 points while Carbonaro, a sophomore, notched 11 including three treys.

The Tigers, who currently lead the DuKane Conference with an 8-0 record, return to action next Friday, hosting league rival Geneva.

– Elgin Courier-News –

Stormy in second half

Sison stands out in rally over Larkin as South Elgin wins fifth straight



South Elgin's Victor Sison moves around **Larkin's Darnell Wilder** during an Upstate Eight Conference game in South Elgin on Thursday. H. Rick Bamman/Beacon-News

Jan. 22, 2023

By Patrick McGavin - Naperville Sun

Senior point guard Victor Sison had the perfect response for **South Elgin**.

Showing poise and presence, Sison expertly countered the series of traps and full-court pressure that **Larkin** threw at him. He took all of that effort as a good thing.

“The pressure **Larkin** was creating gave me a lot of opportunity for my teammates,” Sison said. “And it gave me a chance to find a little more open spaces.

“I do like having the ball in my hands. I love to get my teammates involved.”

Sison made sure of that Thursday night. His heady and aggressive style reversed a 12-point deficit, catapulting the **Storm** to a 58-56 Upstate Eight Conference victory.

Taking control, Sison scored all seven of his points in the second half as **South Elgin** (13-8, 10-1) won its fifth straight. The Storm are 6-1 in their last seven games.

“In the first half, my shot was not falling, so I decided I take the ball to the basket,” said Sison, who also had five rebounds, three assists and two steals. “I had open lanes. I had to take it.”

The **Storm**, who beat the host **Royals** 58-41 on Dec. 6, swept the series against district rival **Larkin** (9-12, 6-5).

Senior guard Elias Cole-Williams scored 29 points. Senior forward Sean Harvey added 15 points and nine rebounds.

Harvey’s 3-point play with 32.6 seconds remaining punctuated a game-closing 12-4 spurt.

Sison, who was marginally used as a junior, has flourished under first-year coach Philip Church.

A steady hand and connective abilities from Sison have fused the different parts of the **Storm’s** motion offense.

“Last year, I didn’t play a lot and neither did any of the juniors from my class,” Sison said. “The new coach gave me the chance to control the offense and control the game.”

Junior guard Jakob Blakley scored 29 points for **Larkin**. Senior guard Adrian Colen-York contributed 11.

Although senior Armani Ivy only had two points, the 6-foot-3 wing personifies the idea of playing bigger than his size. His eight rebounds repeatedly gave the **Royals** second chances.

“I like to shoot the ball,” said Ivy, who’s in his fourth varsity season. “I also think of myself as a defense-first player.”

Ivy has been a steady presence for **Larkin** with a sure feel for the game, a solid shot and the toughness to battle inside.

“This year has been different for me because I really learned how to shoot for the first time,” he said. “I was always a tall guy, but recently everybody has caught up to me.

“I had to learn how to shoot the ball in order to play out there.”

Senior guard Jake Tiaokhiao, meanwhile, scored seven points and also contributed four rebounds, three assists and two steals for the **Storm**.

His 3-pointer on the opening possession of the fourth quarter began **South Elgin’s** comeback.

“I would describe my game as more of a team player,” Tiaokhiao said. “I love getting them going and giving them the energy to just keep pushing.”

Like Sison, Tiaokhiao made the leap from being used sparingly as a situational guard with enhanced responsibilities.

His perseverance has paid off.

“The season started off slow for me, and I didn’t get as many minutes as I thought I deserved,” he said. “As the season progressed, I worked harder and harder and earned that starting spot.

“Now that I am here, I hope to maintain it.”

The dramatic comeback kept the **Storm** atop the conference standings with Fenton.

“That is really important because I don’t think **South Elgin** has won the conference in a while,” Sison said. “It’s huge for the senior class to make a statement, show that we are good and we can play with the best.”

Patrick Z. McGavin is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.

– Elgin Courier-News –

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

Jan. 22, 2023

From Staff Reports

FRIDAY’S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Batavia 68, Wheaton North 52

Benet 48, Carmel 45

Beecher 70, Grace Christian 31

Beecher (20-2, 9-0 River Valley): Trevor Stout 15 points. Rio Llamas 10 points.

Bloom 57, Thornton 52

Bloom (14-5, 6-0 Southland): Raeshom Harris 14 points. Santana Flowers 12 points, 14 rebounds. Jordan Brown 10 points, 5 rebounds.

Thornton (8-8, 4-3): Wadell Bell 15 points. Vincent Rainey 11 points.

Bolingbrook 71, Lincoln-Way West 59

Lincoln-Way West (9-12): Tyler Gabriel 23 points. Jacob Bereza 15 points.

Burlington Central 59, Hampshire 58

Burlington Central (18-4, 9-1 Fox Valley): Andrew Scharnowski 22 points.

De La Salle 78, St. Laurence 71

De La Salle (14-8, 5-3 CCL White): Richard Lindsey 18 points. Evan Jackson 15 points. Charles Barnes, Tavariyuan Williams 12 points.

St. Laurence (15-7, 3-4): E.J. Mosley 22 points. Jacob Rice 16 points. Khalil Jones 11 points.

Deerfield 49, Maine East 47

Deerfield (15-5, 5-1 Central Suburban North): Quinn Schimanski 18 points. Drew Rodgers 10 points.

Dundee-Crown 65, Crystal Lake South 63

Geneva 68, Glenbard North 52

Hillcrest 64, Tinley Park 36

Hillcrest (20-2, 9-0 SSC Blue): Quinten Heady 22 points. Darrion Baker 15 points. Adam Page 12 points.

Homewood-Flossmoor 77, Sandburg 68

H-F (13-8, 1-1 SWSC Blue): Vincent Davis 21 points, 9 rebounds. Jaden Tyler 21 points. Jahlil Birchette 16 points. Carson Brownfield 11 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists.

Sandburg (9-14, 0-3): Paulius Mizeras 16 points. David Vargas, Yanal Swaiss 15 points.

IC Catholic 43, Chicago Christian 27

IMSA 75, DePue 34

Jacobs 64, Cary-Grove 47

Joliet West 64, Yorkville 56

Yorkville (18-4, 7-3 Southwest Prairie West): Jory Boley 13 points. Jason Jakstys 11 points. LeBaron Lee 10 points.

Kaneland 73, Elgin 44

Kaneland (19-4): Troyer Carlson 21 points. Johnny Spallasso 16 points.

Lake Forest 66, Waukegan 58

Lake Forest (13-8, 5-2 North Suburban): Noah Portalatin 20 points.

Lake Park 68, St. Charles East 57

Lemont 62, Oak Forest 49

Lemont (17-6, 7-2 SSC Blue): Klaidas Paskauskas 15 points. Conor Murr 9 points.

Lincoln-Way East 55, Lockport 40

Lincoln-Way East (17-2, 2-1 SWSC Blue): Tylon Tolliver 18 points. George Bellevue 13 points, 10 rebounds.

Lockport (13-7, 1-1): Jalen Falcon 19 points, 8 rebounds.

Loyola 50, Brother Rice 47

Brother Rice (19-3, 6-2 CCL Blue): Ahmad Henderson 15 points.

Marian Catholic 50, Nazareth 42

Marian (16-6, 6-4 ESCC): Donovan Juzang 11 points, 5 rebounds. Quentin Jones, Zack Sharkey 10 points each.

Marist 72, Joliet Catholic 62

Marist (18-5, 7-2 ESCC): Justin Lang 17 points. Kaden White 13 points. Keshawn Vaval 12 points. Marquis Vance 10 points.

JCA (9-11, 2-8): Drew Willis 17 points. T.J. Schlageter, Tyler Surin 10 points.

Marmion 51, Montini 35

Marmion (13-7, 3-4 CCL White): Trevon Roots 20 points, 4 rebounds. Jabe Haith 10 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists. Henry Dalmann 10 points, 9 rebounds.

Metea Valley 67, DeKalb 63

Mount Carmel 75, Leo 41

Mount Carmel (19-2, 8-0 CCL Blue): Anthony Ciaravino 20 points. DeAndre Craig 17 points. Angelo Ciaravino 14 points.

Leo (5-14, 1-7 CCL White): Keeland Jordan 20 points.

Mundelein 59, Zion-Benton 46

Naperville North 47, Neuqua Valley 35

Niles North 59, Highland Park 41

Oak Lawn 42, Shepard 24

Oak Lawn (14-6, 6-2 SSC Red): Corey Lee 16 points. Donte Montgomery 9 points.

Oswego 58, Plainfield East 53

Oswego East 75, Plainfield South 57

Parker 62, Morgan Park Academy 35

Plano 53, Sandwich 46

Plano (7-16, 3-7 Interstate Eight): Davione Stamps 18 points. Sam Sifuentes 12 points.

Sandwich (13-11, 6-4): Dylan Young 12 points, 11 rebounds.

Providence 59, St. Francis de Sales 58 (OT)

Providence (8-13, 3-5 CCL White): Seth Cheney 28 points. Collin Moran 15 points.

Rockford Christian 83, Genoa-Kingston 48

Genoa-Kingston (7-13, 1-3 Big Northern): Hayden Hodgson 17 points.

Romeoville 68, West Aurora 53

West Aurora (14-9): Terrence Smith 18 points. Josh Pickett 12 points.

St. Edward 59, Aurora Central Catholic 39

St. Viator 54, Morgan Park 43

Stevenson 48, Lake Zurich 42

Stevenson (15-3, 6-1 North Suburban): Brandon Sorokin 15 points. David Sulnius 14 points.

Lake Zurich (11-8, 3-4): Anton Strelnikov 12 points.

T.F. South 71, Bremen 65

T.F. South (11-10, 5-3 SSC Blue): Romello Ali 20 points, 7 rebounds. Marquell Wilson 17 points. Daetwan Thomas 16 points. Sam Townsend 11 points.

Thornwood 59, Thornridge 41

Vernon Hills 65, Maine West 44

Vernon Hills (10-12, 3-3 Central Suburban North): Milan Raval 15 points. Nolan Lazor 14 points. Anthony Morgan Jr. 10 points.

Warren 50, Libertyville 45

Warren (12-10, 4-3 North Suburban): Alex Daniels 14 points, Patrick Sengco 11 points.

Libertyville (16-4, 6-1): Jack Huber 11 points. Aidyn Boone 10 points.

Waubonsie Valley 50, Naperville Central 33

Wauconda 47, Grayslake Central 42

Grayslake Central (19-3, 6-1 Northern Lake County): Dennis Estepp, Michael Monahan, Jake Gibson 9 points.

Wheaton Warrenville South 57, St. Charles North 32

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cary-Grove 50, Jacobs 32

Crystal Lake South 49, Dundee-Crown 34

East Aurora 63, **Elgin** 19

Hampshire 53, Burlington Central 52

Burlington Central (14-8, 6-4 Fox Valley): Page Erickson 18 points, 5 assists, 4 rebounds. Emma Payton 16 points, 7 rebounds.

Phillips 51, De La Salle 36

De La Salle (12-12): Kamryn Porter 16 points.

Lake Forest 64, Waukegan 29

Lemont 47, Oak Forest 43

Lemont (13-9, 7-1 SSC Blue): Bella Kedryna 20 points. Brooke Panush 12 points.

Mundelein 54, Zion-Benton 41

Mundelein (9-13, 3-6 North Suburban): Casey Vyverman 19 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals. Rylan Foster 16 points, 6 rebounds, 4 steals. Gracie Werner 11 points.

Niles North 55, Highland Park 47

South Elgin 66, Larkin 55

South Elgin (10-14, 7-5 Upstate Eight): Chloe Kmiec 29 points.

Stevenson 46, Lake Zurich 35

Stevenson (17-8, 7-3 North Suburban): Nisha Musunuri 19 points. Emory Klatt 15 points.

Vernon Hills 49, Maine West 40

Vernon Hills (14-9, 6-2 Central Suburban North): Grace Koepke 21 points.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ag. Science 62, Vocational 46

Ag. Science (16-5, 7-1 Public White-South): James White 12 points. Devin Long 11 points. Chris Taylor 10 points.

Andrew 59, Stagg 52

Andrew (12-9, 3-0 SWSC Red): Austin Kulig 16 points, 8 rebounds. Nate LaPlant 11 points, 3 blocks. Kaleb Simms 10 points, 5 rebounds. Athan Berchos 10 points, 4 assists.

Stagg (10-11, 1-2): David Ortiz 17 points. Lebarion Gilmore 10 points.

Argo 46, Reavis 34

Argo (5-16, 2-7 SSC Red): Davonte Evans 17 points.

Reavis (4-16): Gabe Hernandez 22 points.

Brooks 81, Morgan Park 45

East Aurora 73, Elgin 50

Eisenhower 76, Phoenix 40

Eisenhower (9-13): A.J. Abrams 23 points. Ayipey Salinas 15 points.

Fenton 68, Bartlett 63

Glenbard East 61, Streamwood 46

Hinckley-Big Rock 44, Harvest Christian 42

Hinckley-Big Rock (18-5): Martin Ledbetter GW basket with 1.1 seconds remaining. Ben Hintzsche 17 points.

Milford 72, Beecher 64

Beecher (19-2): Aidyn McGinley 27 points. Zack Johnson 19 points.

Newark 55, Parkview Christian 26

Rich Township 78, Crete-Monee 51

Rich Township (14-8, 4-3 Southland): Samar Bures 21 points, 5 assists. Victor Brown 19 points, 12 rebounds. Avery Hearn 11 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals.

Riverside-Brookfield 72, Aurora Christian 66 (3 OT)

Aurora Christian (15-6): Cam Morel, Jalen Carter 15 points each. Braden Hatch 13 points.

Shepard 66, Chicago Prep School of America 41

Shepard (10-9): Payton Crims 24 points.

South Elgin 58, Larkin 56

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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