

Press Clippings for 10/07/2022

---Chicago Tribune---

Oct. 06, 2022

Handle with Care allows Elgin police to interact with schools when a child experiences a traumatic situation

By: Mike Danahey



Handle with Care is a new program that allows Elgin police to contact U-46 schools in Elgin so a child involved in a traumatic situation can be monitored and given help, if needed. (Handle with Care West Virginia / HANDOUT)

A program to help children cope with painful, scary or upsetting situations has been launched by the Elgin Police Department and **School District U-46**.

Based on a similar initiative established in West Virginia in 2013, Handle With Care allows police officers and school officials to identify children who have seen or been involved in a difficult situation — car crashes, violence, house fires — and get them the help they might need, Elgin Police Sgt. Rick Demierre said.

“Handle With Care can provide children with the professional assistance, resources and skills needed to learn how to cope with traumatic events,” said Demierre, who oversees the program from the police side.

U-46 lead social worker Mary Abbott said, “Our hope with the program is for early identification to provide the support, resources and interventions for our students and families.”

Helping students cope with trauma helps them to not disengage or be distracted while at school, which can affect their ability to learn, Demierre said.

Handle With Care asks police officers who handle incidents in which children might be involved to alert Demierre, who then forwards some of the details and the child’s name, grade level and school to Lt. Jim Roscher, who oversees community engagement for the police department.

Depending on the nature of the incident, it will be rated Level 1 or Level 2, the latter being more severe and likely more traumatic. Situations can include such things as watching one parent attack another during a domestic battery or a family argument that requires police intervention; witnessing a crime or some sort of violence; being involved in or seeing a car crash; being left homeless after a fire; or seeing someone die or having someone close die.

“With Level 1, the school social worker will send an email to the building administrator and student’s teachers with a simple message to handle with care. There is no direct contact made with that student,” Demierre said.

“With Level 2, in addition to emailing teachers and the building administrator, the school social worker will do a direct check-in with the student.”

Abbott said Level 1 cases require teachers to monitor the student’s behavior for any changes and could involve speaking to the child without specifically mentioning the incident. In Level 2, Abbott said, the school social worker will speak to the student but discusses the situation only if the child brings it up.

Elgin police started training officers on how Handle With Care works in October 2021, Demierre said. U-46 launched its side of the program at Elgin schools in January 2022, Abbott said.

“Our vision is to expand this throughout our district, but at the moment it is a collaborative effort with the Elgin Police Department only. There is no cost to us, and all the training is done by existing staff,” she said.

The police department has seen an increase in Handle With Care reports as more officers are trained to take children into account when evaluating situations, Demierre said.

“This school year, we’ve only had a small number of notifications that fall into the two levels of response,” Abbott said.

Andrea Darr, director of the West Virginia Center for Children’s Justice at the West Virginia State Police, said Handle With Care initiatives have been replicated in at least 40 states. Among those that have launched it in Illinois is the Rockford Police Department and Rockford Public Schools.

To learn more about the program, go to www.handlewithcarewv.org.

---WBBM NewsRadio---

Oct. 06, 2022

Elgin announces imminent closure of elementary school

By WBBM Newsradio Staff Report

Elgin School District U-46 has announced that **Garfield Elementary School** will be closing at the end of this school year.

The school dates to 1887, and the decision to close it was not unexpected.

It was part of a plan approved by the school board in January, but parents and students have now been informed this is the last year.

Students will attend either **Channing** or **Huff** elementary schools.

"This was a difficult decision based on the age and condition of the building, a declining enrollment down to only 266 students, and available capacity at neighboring schools," **Supt. Tony Sanders** wrote in a letter to parents.

To listen to the audio report click [here](#).

---The Daily Herald---

Oct. 07, 2022

Scouting Week 7 Fox football games

By: Mike Miazga



Geneva's Jackson Reyes runs the ball during a game at St. Charles East on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022.

When: Friday, 7 p.m.

Larkin (3-3, 3-3) at **Bartlett** (4-2, 4-2)

When: Friday, 7 p.m.

Previous matchup: **Larkin** 28, **Bartlett** 21 (2021 at **Larkin**)

About the **Royals**: Critical contest for the Royals when it comes to their playoff pursuit -- a pair of wins over the last three weeks are needed to become playoff eligible. "We have to do a better job on the little things of the game and keep up the intensity for four quarters," **Larkin** coach Grant Dietz said. "We have to do a better job blocking and tackling." Dietz said Michael Bresnen is becoming a leader on defense, while Tim Scott "keeps playing hard and is on the verge of a big game," he said. Also grading out well has been Damani Cannon, "understanding the offense and he is on the verge of a big game," Dietz noted.

About the Hawks: **Bartlett**, which with a win here becomes playoff eligible, broke a 2-game losing streak with a win over Fenton last week. "Bartlett plays hard," Dietz said. "They are improving each week and they are at home. They run the ball well and play well on defense. We must have stronger attention to our details. We must execute our offense, play hard and fast on defense and special teams. We must play through adversity regardless of the situation."

South Elgin (6-0, 6-0) at **Elgin** (3-3)

When: Friday, 7 p.m.

Previous matchup: **South Elgin** 29, **Elgin** 0 (2021 at **South Elgin**)

About the **Storm**: **South Elgin** sits atop the Upstate Eight as the league's lone remaining unbeaten. "**Elgin** has a big win already this year, crushing our rival (**Bartlett**) in Week 4," **South Elgin** coach Dragan Teonic noted. "They also have one of the best running backs in the conference. We have played **Elgin** every year since I have been here and they always pose similar issues, athleticism and unpredictability. We will have to tackle well in space and control the line of scrimmage." Junior kicker Bryan Cortez is 9-for-18 on onside kicks this year, "and is exceptional at placing the ball where we need it on all kickoffs," Teonic noted. Teonic also had high praise for the Storm's offensive line of Nathan Dinse, Tommy Roath, Eddie Ramirez, Hyun Jin Ko and Hernan Cortez. "Our offensive line is the reason we are still undefeated," he said. To that point, **South Elgin** has run the ball 240 times for 1,731 yards (7.2 yards per carry) and has 27 rushing touchdowns spread out across 10 players. The Storm also has lost only 3 fumbles in those 240 chances, while attempting only 81 passes. **South Elgin** won the toxic ratio (explosives minus turnovers) 11-6 over Glenbard South last week, committing just 1 turnover. An explosive is defined as a pass completion of 25 or more yards and a run of 15 or more.

About the **Maroons**: "**South Elgin** is good at what they do and they have depth throughout their team," **Elgin** coach Anthony Mason said. "They fly to the ball and they are good. We can compete with anyone, we just have to take advantage of our opportunities when given, work hard and execute, and that will allow us to play good football." Mason did note **Elgin** had a pair

of red zone appearances last week against Glenbard East and generated no points. Punter Donovan Vences, a senior, has been playing well. "He had an amazing performance against Glenbard East after struggling against West Chicago in Week 5," Mason said. Vences had 223 punting yards with a long of 42 yards and put 2 punts inside the 20-yard line. Mason also lauded the play of Matt Lawson. "Matt is everywhere on the field now," Mason said. "He's getting healthier and making plays on special teams, offense and defense."

East Aurora (1-5, 1-5) at **Streamwood** (1-5, 1-5)

When: Friday, 7 p.m.

Previous matchup: East Aurora 24, **Streamwood** 17 (2021 at East Aurora)

About the Tomcats: East Aurora holds a 20-14 win over **Elgin** and lost close conference games this year to **Bartlett** (21-14) and **Larkin** (29-21). "Aurora East wants to spread out the defense, but run the ball," **Streamwood** coach Keith McMaster said. "Our team has to cut out the mental mistakes. It cost us many times in the last game, whether penalties or blown assignments. Three of our losses came from beating ourselves mentally."

About the **Sabres**: McMaster continued on the subject of blown assignments. "Blown assignments cost us big-time in the last game, he said, referencing last week's 46-24 loss to West Chicago. "This was the most passing yards given up all season." Streamwood sits at minus-14 in the turnover category. "You can't win ballgames without controlling the football or taking it from your opponent," McMaster noted. The coach has been impressed with the play of the sophomores on the varsity, particularly on defense. Juniors Chris Marquez, AJ Trimino and Oscar Villapondo lead the team in tackles. "We are taking some lumps this season, but this team is young and can hopefully grow from this season," McMaster said. Streamwood did run for 241 yards last week. Jaiden Thomas had 110 yards on 23 carries and scored a touchdown, while John Ray scored 2 rushing touchdowns. Thomas also ran in a pair of 2-point conversions, while Juan Cortes enjoyed a 2-point run as well. Cortes ran for 80 yards on 18 carries.

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

---The Daily Herald---

Oct. 07, 2022

High school football: Five storylines to watch in Week 7

By: John Lemon



Batavia's Dennis Piron is 11-0 against Geneva since becoming the coach at his alma mater. In the last five meetings, Batavia has outscored Geneva 209-0. The teams meet for the 104th time Friday night in Batavia. Rick West | Staff Photographer

Here are five things to keep an eye on in Week 7 of the high school football season.

There's no shortage of rivalry matchups in the DuKane Conference Friday night. While Wheaton North plays Wheaton Warrenville South and St. Charles East meets St. Charles North for town bragging rights, it's always tough to beat the Batavia/Geneva game.

Why?

It helps that we're getting ready for matchup No. 104 in the series between neighboring towns who can make their season with a win. The first matchup was played back on Saturday, Nov. 22 ... 1913.

Batavia, coached then by Stanley Hill, beat Leonard C. Mead's Geneva squad 12-7 a mere 109 years ago.

There's been ups and downs for both programs in the century-plus since, but this is a game both always circle. The Bulldogs have been on some kind of a role lately. Since current coach Denis Piron took over at his alma mater in 2011, Batavia is 11-0 against the Vikings. In the last five meetings, Batavia has outscored Geneva 209-0 -- including 35-0 last year.

Geneva is improving though, bringing a 5-1 record into tonight's game at 4-2 Batavia. And despite the Bulldogs' recent dominating stretch, Geneva still leads the all-time series 51-47-5.

May the best team win, and here's hoping we get a more competitive game than we've had lately.

Familiar name:

Bears fans will recognize the last name of St. Viator sophomore quarterback Connor Kmet, the younger brother of Bears tight end Cole. Connor made his first start last week and threw for 176 yards as the Lions beat Marian Catholic to end a 2-game losing streak. Kmet will try to make it two straight wins when the 4-2 Lions host 4-2 St. Ignatius Friday.

Defending the Upstate Eight:

South Elgin won probably its toughest matchup of the regular season last week, beating previously unbeaten Glenbard South, 49-27. That improved the **Storm** to 6-0 as they moved up to No. 3 in the Daily Herald Top 20.

Ranking South Elgin isn't always easy given the Upstate Eight schedule. South Elgin is obviously talented and an excellent football program -- it's just there aren't many scores to compare of theirs vs. other Top 20 teams.

Storm coach Dragan Teonic was asked about playing in the UEC after the Glenbard South win.

"I think people overvalue other conferences and undervalue ours," Teonic said. "I'm not going to make a case for every team in our conference or even us every single season, but I think that it's worth looking at film before you make a decision as to who or what you are. I think that certain conferences get more love than they probably should based on what I've seen on film, and that's no knock on anybody else. Football's changed. It's 2022. It's not 2008 anymore, and it just looks different in certain spots. The Upstate Eight doesn't always prepare us for 8A football. But we're 3-2 out of conference. The only two losses we've had in the last 35 games are to Brother Rice and Marist and they were semifinalist Catholic Blue teams. Everybody loses to those guys. So I just think there's a little too much talk about that."

Home finale:

As Daily Herald Correspondent Mike Miazga wrote this week, one of the Fox Valley area's gridiron good guys is calling it a day.

St. Edward's Mike Rolando will coach his final home game Friday night in Elgin when the Green Wave hosts Wheaton Academy.

Rolando's 18 years at St. Edward includes a career 76-89 mark with 7 state playoff appearances. He's the school's all-time winningest coach with seven of St. Edward's nine playoff appearances.

"It's been a great, long run," Rolando told Miazga. "I'm just ready to move on and spend time with my wife and see the kids in college. Football has been our life. It's just time."

Plenty of heart:

One thing Rolando has done through the years is coach bare-bone rosters -- sometimes in the 20s -- with players who often play both ways and plenty of underclassmen up.

So Rolando can certainly relate to Round Lake coach Scott Blecha. Congrats to Blecha's Panthers who pulled off their first win last week, 28-20 over North Chicago.

Round Lake dressed 18 players for the game.