

---Chicago Tribune--

Oct. 18, 2022

Elgin News Digest: Elgin library hosting poverty and children discussion; deadline Friday to give input on Downtown Elgin Farmers Market; U-46 conducting survey on facilities, educational needs

By: Mike Danahey



A survey being done by the Downtown Neighborhood Association of Elgin seeks input on the weekly Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, including information on what visitors bought and spent and whether they went to other places while they were downtown. (Mike Danahey / The Courier-News)

U-46 conducting survey on facilities, educational needs

A School District U-46 survey seeking residents' input on school facilities and educational needs ends Friday, Oct. 21.

The anonymous survey takes a few minutes to complete. Results will be a part of the recommendations presented to the District U-46 School Board as it works on a five-year educational facility master plan.

The district is also conducting a random telephone survey and since spring has been holding periodic Unite-46 meetings with the community as part of the new master plan process.

To complete the survey online, see www.research.net/r/U46survey. Paper copies of the survey are available by going to U-46 Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin, emailing UniteU46@u-46.org or calling 847-888-5000, Ext. 5003.

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

---Chicago Tribune---

Oct. 18, 2022

Rick Armstrong's Aurora, Elgin and Naperville football rankings and players of the week for Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022

By: Rick Armstrong



St. Charles North's Henry Warsaw (60) looks to block Geneva's Jackson Reyes (6) in a DuKane Conference game on Friday, Sept., 23, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

Top 10

With records through Monday and previous rankings in parentheses.

1. St. Charles North 7-1 (2)

North Stars get tough game from Glenbard North in 14-7 victory.

2. Batavia 6-2 (3)

Bulldogs host St. Charles North with chance to earn share of DuKane Conference title.

3. Yorkville 7-1 (4)

Michael Dopart's touchdown pass to Blake Kersting lifts Foxes to big 7-0 win at Minooka.

4. Jacobs 7-1 (5)

Paulie Rudolph had three TD runs for Jacobs in 28-17 win over Hampshire.

5. South Elgin 8-0 (6)

Jordan Green doesn't need that many touches to run wild against Bartlett.

6. Naperville Central 6-2 (7)

Redhawks, who won 10-7 previously, meet Naperville North for second time in four weeks.

7. Naperville North 6-2 (8)

Nathan Jacobs runs for two TDs as Huskies grind out 308 yards on ground.

8. Neuqua Valley 6-2 (1)

Mark Mennecke returned from injury but didn't finish a 14-0 loss to DeKalb.

9. Geneva 5-3 (9)

Jackson Reyes returned an interception for a TD but Wheaton North rallies to win 20-13.

10. Oswego East 5-3 (NR)

Tre Jones' four TD runs secure Wolves' only second win in rivalry game with Oswego.

Offensive Player of the Week

Senior running back Jordan Green needed just four carries to gain 168 yards and score three TDs for South Elgin in a 53-7 win over Bartlett.

Defensive Player of the Week

Junior defensive lineman Josh Mauthe had a team-high 13 tackles, including four for loss with two sacks, for Kaneland (5-3) in a 45-6 win over Woodstock North.

---Chicago Tribune---

Oct. 18, 2022

Hungry heart: Jalen Miller scores 2 TDs, forces fumble at end as Larkin tops Elgin for Town Jug. ‘If I’m not eating, I know he’s going to eat.’

By: Paul Johnson



Larkin's Jalen Miller (9) wraps up Elgin's Terrell Arrington (2) in the third quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game at Memorial Stadium in Elgin on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

If senior running back Chevelle Clements isn't on, Larkin coach Grant Dietz knows that junior running back Jalen Miller will pick up the slack that night. And vice versa.

In the annual crosstown rivalry game against **Elgin**, it was Miller's time to shine.

And that was just fine with Clements.

"I'm never jealous of my brother," he said. "If I'm not eating, I know he's going to eat."



Larkin's Chevelle Clements (6) finds running room against Elgin during an Upstate Eight Conference game at Memorial Stadium in Elgin on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

Miller feasted Friday night, scoring touchdowns of 14 and 80 yards and forcing a fumble on **Elgin**'s final offensive play to ice the **Royals**' 18-0 Upstate Eight Conference victory.

Larkin (5-3, 5-3) retained the Town Jug and also became playoff eligible for the second straight season.

"It felt great for us to come out and win, especially the Jug game," Miller said. "It's very big in **Elgin**."

Although Miller is only a junior, he's emerged as a team captain and one of the catalysts for the **Royals**.

"He's a heck of a team leader," Dietz said. "On the practice field, he has the intangibles that we look for. He works hard in the weight room.

"We expect bigger things out of him moving forward and even preparing for next year."



Larkin offensive lineman Angel Gonzalez (64) points before the snap against Elgin during an Upstate Eight Conference game at Memorial Stadium in Elgin on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

Larkin turned the ball over three times in the first half against **Elgin** (3-5, 3-5), but still held a 6-0 lead thanks to Miller. His 14-yard TD run in the second quarter was the difference.

"It was a good run for me," Miller said. "The offensive line did their part. We've been working all week to execute this game plan."

Larkin turned the ball over again to start the third quarter, but the defense forced the **Maroons** into a three-and-out.

On the ensuing drive, the **Royals** extended the lead to 12-0 as Tizairian Johnson-Williams hit Erick Myrick for a 6-yard TD pass on fourth-and-goal with 3:31 left in the quarter.

Early in the fourth, the **Royals** forced an **Elgin** punt. Myrick took the ball 95 yards for an apparent TD, only for it to be called back due to a penalty.

Two plays later, however, Miller broke free on an 80-yard TD run to put the game away.



Larkin's Erick Myrick (18) and Jalen Miller (9) celebrate Myrick's touchdown in the third quarter against Elgin during an Upstate Eight Conference game at Memorial Stadium in Elgin on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

"I was," Miller said of being stopped. "I ran to the right side and it didn't work. Great blocks on the left side and I found my way, saw daylight.

"I fed off the punt return. It was called back, but I fed off my brother's energy and I took it to the house."

Clements didn't find the end zone Friday, but that didn't bother him.

"That long touchdown, I knew I had to execute a block for him," Clements said of Miller. "I saw daylight, so I had to execute that block and he was going to take it to the house, and he did."

Elgin tried to score on its final drive, even with the outcome all but decided, but Miller helped preserve the shutout. He forced a fumble that was recovered by Damani Cannon.

"It felt great to see them score zero points," Miller said.



Elgin's Terrell Arrington (2) runs through Larkin's defense for a first down in the second quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game at Memorial Stadium in Elgin on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

Despite forcing four turnovers, the **Maroons** could not score and saw their hopes of making the playoffs dashed.

“We couldn’t finish,” **Elgin** coach Anthony Mason said. “It’s been a struggle for us all season — finishing. Our defense made great plays. We just couldn’t finish offensively and some plays on defense as well.”

Larkin, meanwhile, has a chance to win six games for the first time since 2002. The **Royals** end the regular season next week against West Chicago (1-7, 1-7).

“We’re one game better than last year with a bigger squad,” Dietz said. “Things are looking up.

“If we can get one game better each year, that’s a huge step in the right direction coming from where we were.”

---The Daily Herald---

Oct. 17, 2022

Boys soccer: Scouting the postseason in DuPage County and Fox

By: Chris Walker



York's José Herrera, right, battles Fremd's during last year's Class 3A state title game that the Dukes won 4-0. York is one of the teams to watch when Class 3A and 2A postseason soccer begins this week. *Matthew Apgar/mapgar@shawmedia.com*

One of the most fun things to do at this time of the year for anyone that's interested in high school soccer is to consider potential intriguing matchups and must-watch games if certain outcomes are reached when buzzers sound.

Naperville North, the only program in the last 20 years to win a state championship and finish undefeated, is playing for its fifth state title while defending state champion York (15-0-3) is one of three Class 3A teams entering the postseason. **Elgin** (16-0-3), which battled the Dukes to a draw in the **Streamwood** Classic earlier this season, also hasn't been beaten. Those two teams would play for a trip to state in the **Streamwood** supersectional.

The **Maroons** may have only won a regional title for the second time in school history last fall, but **Elgin**'s only losing season in the past 10 years was during the abbreviated pandemic spring season in 2021. Indeed, their rise to being one of the top teams in the state didn't just happen overnight and expectations were high from the very start.

"The goals we have for the season (are) not only going back to the sectional final and winning it, but going to state and winning it all in addition to winning our conference," first-year coach Jimmy Romano said before the season started.

Elgin won the Upstate Eight Conference and now begins its pursuit for IHSA hardware.

Naperville North (14-3-4) would certainly enjoy a rematch with Naperville Central (19-3-1), which beat the Huskies 2-1 to win the DuPage Valley Conference. The two rivals could square off in the Bolingbrook sectional final if they win three postseason games to get there.

"It's always tough and we start with Plainfield Central and (coach Kevin) Fitzgerald does a great job with his team," Huskies coach Jim Konrad said. "Obviously, if we could beat them and knock out the next team ... It's fun to begin talking about the big dream but at the end of the day you've got to go one at a time. We've shown we can beat anybody and we've shown that we need to get sharper so that we can head into the playoffs sprinting."

Stevenson (16-0-3) is the final unbeaten team in 3A. There was a fourth unbeaten team as of late last week, but Romeoville (22-1-1) finally tasted defeat in a 4-0 loss to Naperville Central on Thursday.

The Metea Valley regional (aka The mostly Aurora regional) opens with No. 4 East Aurora (11-6-3) vs. No. 14 Metea Valley (4-13-4) and No. 5 West Aurora (13-3-5) vs. No. 12 Neuqua Valley (6-9-2).

The host Mustangs lost to the Tomcats, 2-0, on Sept. 19 and tied the Wildcats in a weather-shortened game, 1-1, the following afternoon.

The Blackhawks tied the Tomcats, 2-2, in late August. They beat the Mustangs, 5-2, in the final game of the regular season for both teams.

"A team needs to win four quality games to be crowned Bolingbrook sectional champs," Blackhawks coach Joe Sustersic said.

In addition to the aforementioned Naperville schools, Plainfield North (18-4-1) is among the top teams in the Bolingbrook sectional, where the host Raiders are a dark horse with 13 wins and young teams like Oswego East are vying for upsets.

Teams that are less familiar with one another will play to extend their respective seasons in the St. Charles North regional with 2019 Class 3A state champs West Chicago (8-5-3) earning a

No. 4 seed and taking on No. 13 Addison Trail (9-8-1) before host and No. 6 seed St. Charles North (8-5-4) battles No. 12 Glenbard West (12-10) during Tuesday's regional semis. None of the four schools has faced each other this spring.

"I know some of those guys personally and I know they have a strong team and a really strong offense, but seeds don't matter and the records don't matter now," Addison Trail senior Matias Aguilar said. "It's just you versus them. The records go out the window and it's all about who wants it more."

It's been 10 years since Downers Grove South (8-9-1) and Benet (12-4-1) went head-to-head and they could do it again on Oct. 21 if the No. 3 Redwings defeat No. 14 Proviso West and the No. 6 Mustangs beat No. 11 Kelly.

"We are a team that could make a deep run in the playoffs or fail to bring home even one trophy," Redwings coach Sean Wesley said. "If it turns out to be us and Downers Grove South, I would expect it to be a really tough game."

Benet edged Downers Grove South, 1-0, on a first-half goal from Sam Knapke to win the 2012 Class 3A Downers Grove South regional championship.

"There is nothing easy about IHSA 3A playoffs," Wesley added. "I feel like no matter where they send us it is always a juggernaut. This year is no exception."

One of the more intriguing sectional semifinal possibilities would square up No. 2 **Streamwood** (9-7-4) with No. 3 Huntley (13-7-2) in the Class 3A Hampshire sectional semifinals.

The Red Raiders open in the Class 3A **South Elgin** regional against the No. 15 **Storm** (3-12-4) and with a victory would get either No. 6 **Larkin** (13-8) or No. 11 Hampshire (6-12-3) in the regional title game.

No. 2 St. Charles East (16-2-4) travels to the Glenbard East regional where the Saints will take on Bartlett (5-14-1) in a semifinal and then either No. 7 Elk Grove Village (10-5-3) or the No. 10 Rams (9-4-2). The Saints blanked the Hawks, 4-0, in their season opener.

"Bartlett has been competitive all season and we know that they will give us their best 80 minutes," Saints coach Vince DiNuzzo said. "As for the postseason, it seems like most teams could not wait for us to get to this point and everyone has a new sign of life with the single elimination tournament."

It's all on the line now.

"Soccer is a beautiful game where anything can happen and you need a little luck to win seven straight matches," DiNuzzo said. "There is a lot of parity in the sectional and we look forward to the challenge that everyone presents."

The winner of No. 8 Lake Park (8-7-3) and No. 9 Glenbard North (8-8-3) will get No. 1 York in the Class 3A Lake Park regional title game on Oct. 22 unless Schaumburg or Hoffman Estates stun the Dukes.

The Lancers and Panthers just saw each other on Sept. 27 as Lake Park celebrated Senior Night in style with a 3-2 win behind goals from Rodrigo Diaz, Anthony Juarez and Alessandro Scalera.

"It's a conference team and every single game we've had in conference has been a good one," Lancers senior Shane Donnelly said. "We're excited to host regionals on our grass field. We've been happy with the results we've gotten there and feel like we can beat any team."

Geneva (8-3-8) returns to an unforgettable scene from just three years ago. The No. 4 Vikings travel to the Conant regional, which they won just three years ago on a Braeden McPherson goal with 1:12 remaining.

Winning another is certainly possible, but won't come easy with No. 11 Wheaton North (7-5-5) standing in the way. The Falcons, who the Vikings just tied 1-1 in a DuKane Conference game

on Oct. 4, are seeking revenge. The Vikings beat them twice last year, both by the score of 1-0, including in a regional semifinal.

The Vikings have won two regional titles in the past three years after having not won one since 2010.

Class 2A

Among the area's Class 2A schools, a potential St. Francis (5-6-2) vs. Kaneland (13-8-2) game could happen in the Glenbard South sectional semifinals, but both teams will need to find some magic in the regional. The No. 3 Knights take on No. 6 Rochelle (10-8) and would likely have to then beat No. 2 Sycamore (12-11-1) while the No. 4 Spartans have to beat No. 5 IMSA (11-4-2) and then upset top-seeded Lemont (11-3-7).

Kaneland edged Sycamore, 2-1, on Oct. 1 and lost to Marmion, 3-1, on Oct. 8. If the teams both find slippers they'd play for a sectional title.

Marmion (6-8-5) is one of those rare teams that could climb to or above .500 with a solid playoff run. The No. 2 Cadets are the on-paper favorite in the Hinsdale South regional, opening with winless Providence Catholic (0-15) and likely getting the host Hornets (5-13-1) in the regional final. Things would then get a heck of a lot tougher with top-seeded Rockford Boylan (16-3-1) likely in the Burlington Central sectional semifinals.

Also in 2A, Crystal Lake South (12-4-3) is hosting a regional and trying to advance to state for the third time since 2018. They open the postseason against Lakes (3-13-2). The No. 3 Gators would likely have to deal with No. 1 Grayslake Central (13-1-3) and No. 2 Vernon Hills (10-7-2) in the sectional, but not until the title game with Wauconda (10-3-3) or St. Viator (9-9) as a likely sectional semifinal opponent.

Finally, in Class 1A defending state champion Wheaton Academy remains in the hunt for another trophy. The Warriors (12-4-3) take on Johnsborg (9-10-1) in a sectional game on Tuesday. A victory gets them the winner of Genoa-Kingston (18-4) and Westminster Christian

(13-3-1). Meanwhile, Timothy Christian (13-9) hosts Cristo Rey Jesuit (14-7-1) in a sectional final on Tuesday.

Last fall, Wheaton Academy beat Timothy Christian handily in a 1A state semifinal. If they were to have a rematch in the postseason, it would come in the title game on Oct. 29.

Correct perspective

Regardless of what happens this postseason, once again these student-athletes were able to enjoy a full soccer season for just the second straight year after the pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 season and the addition of an abbreviated spring 2021 season. Their full seasons are worthy of being celebrated regardless of who comes home with hardware. The hard truth is that time isn't on the high school athlete's side. It may not feel like it, but it goes by quickly and hopefully lessons have been learned by the kids to truly enjoy their time playing for their respective schools.

Consider West Chicago senior Efrain Romero and any other player who missed this season because of injury or suddenly finds themselves unavailable due to an injury or other unfortunate circumstances.

"This season has been full of mixed emotions," he said. "Starting off the season, I was really excited to help out the team as much as I could, showing up to practices, setting up rondos and laughing along with my teammates was an amazing feeling even though I couldn't place a foot on a ball whatsoever."

Once the Wildcats started playing games, thoughts flooded Romero's head.

"The main thought was, 'What could I have been providing for this team if I could physically play,'" he said. "Before my ACL surgery I knew I wanted to be the best I have ever been and make the huge effort to help the team out and win state once again. Unfortunately that didn't happen and I had a major setback. This injury has been the biggest challenge that I've ever faced and am still facing to this day."

Romero continues to support his teammates from a distance and while he's not playing he's already winning at life.

"I know God has great plans for me," he said. "All I have left to do is keep my head up and be ready for the great and bad things that are coming my way."