

## **Press Clippings 10/2/2021 to 10/4/2021**

**---Daily Herald---10/2/2021**

### **U-46, Alignment Collaborative for Education offer virtual event for eighth-graders Oct. 7**

**Submitted by Elgin Area School District U-46**

More than 2,500 eighth-graders and teachers in **Elgin Area School District U-46** will participate on Thursday, Oct. 7, in a virtual version of "Explore 2021."

The district's annual expo is designed to expose students to various careers and demonstrate the connection between academic curriculum and future careers.

Traditionally, Explore was held inside a large sports arena. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event for the 2020-21 school year was held virtually. Feedback was so positive that organizers decided to keep it as a virtual field trip for this fall, with students participating via Zoom webinars from their classrooms.

"Explore 2021 promises to be an engaging, personalized way for our eighth-graders to explore careers and industries and to visit with community professionals specializing in those job fields," said U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders. "No matter what the format, Explore is always an important part of our efforts to strengthen our work around educational pathways that will serve students in both college and career preparation."

In advance of attending Explore 2021, each eighth-grader has utilized Naviance -- a digital college and career planning system -- to learn which career clusters align with their interests and aptitudes.

Using this information, they have worked with counselors to select up to six career exploration sessions on Oct. 7.

Each session will be hosted by an industry representative and will showcase several career options within that industry cluster.

The middle school counselors have also created pre-lessons and a post-lesson so students better understand how their career exploration, interests and insights can be applied to their coursework at U-46 as well as planning for their future.

Parents of eighth-graders were invited to attend a webinar on Sept. 23 to learn what their children would experience during Explore 2021.

The webinar was recorded and can be found in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#) on the district's YouTube [channel](#).

The [Alignment Collaborative for Education](#), a nonprofit local organization that brings together community resources and initiatives to support district priorities, is once again partnering with U-46 to organize the event and has recruited local professionals, companies, organizations, and educators to place a spotlight on careers representing a wide range of industry clusters from business to building sciences, engineering to education, and health care to hospitality.

"Explore is an introductory opportunity to career exploration that begins a comprehensive approach to preparing students for college and careers," said Nancy Coleman, executive director of Alignment. "We are very appreciative of how our businesses, organizations, and nonprofit partners have come together to support this virtual event in the most creative way possible to offer something special for our students."

Starting this fall, Alignment plans to host quarterly career panels for high school students, as well as college and university admission events featuring representatives from the 12 universities most-attended by U-46 students.

The Community Advisory Council, then called the Citizens' Advisory Council, helped the district launch the first expo in the 2015-16 school year.

The Alignment Collaborative for Education has since helped expand the expo, first as a weekend event at Elgin Community College and then in 2018 and 2019, as a school-day event at the former Sears Centre.

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## **South Elgin's gambles pay off against Streamwood**

**By Jared Birchfield, Daily Herald Correspondent**

**Streamwood** decided to try a different strategy to open the second half of its Upstate Eight game against **South Elgin** Friday night.

The Sabres relied on their triple offense in the first half and trailed the host Storm 21-0 at the intermission.

Streamwood opened the third quarter with an onside kick. The Sabres recovered the ball and ended the drive with a touchdown.

South Elgin then turned the tables on its guests. The Storm responded with four touchdowns, three resulting from their own recovered onside kicks, in less than two minutes to break the game open and win 57-8.

The victory raised the Storm's overall record to 6-0 (5-0 in conference) and secured a playoff berth.

South Elgin attempted the onside kicks in an effort to keep the ball out of Streamwood's hands according to Storm coach Dragon Teonic.

"They caused a lot of problems for us when we were on defense because they were able to maintain possession. We felt like if we gave the ball back to them they would grind it out again," Teonic said. "I thought the onside were the way to go. The first one was successful, we

went down and scored. We then went for two and after that we were going to let it roll and see what we could do with it."

Although it did not end in a touchdown, the Sabres' first drive of the game took nine minutes off the clock.

Streamwood's successful third quarter drive which ended with a 3-yard touchdown run by Mickey Estrada kept South Elgin's offense off the field for more than five minutes.

After the score, the Sabres tried another onside kick. This time the Storm recovered. The ensuing drive ended at 6:12 mark of the third frame with an 8-yard Mason Montgomery scoring run.

South Elgin then recovered its own onside kick. On the next play from scrimmage, Montgomery (77 yards in 4 carries) scored his second TD on an 11-yard run.

Again, the Storm executed a successful onside kick and scored on the first play of the drive -- this time on a 45-yard pass from quarterback Jordan Jones to Montgomery.

Once more, South Elgin attempted an onside kick and retained possession of the ball. And again, the Storm scored in one play. With 5:03 left in the third quarter, Jalen Jones ran 53 yards for the touchdown.

Brandon Belk scored the Storm's last touchdown on a 7-yard run with 4:18 left in the fourth quarter.

South Elgin was limited to three possessions during the first half but made the most of them. The Storm ended all of the drives in the end zone. With 1:33 left in the first quarter, Jordan Jones (four carries for 81 yards) scored the first touchdown on a 23-yard run.

Jordan Jones only completed two passes in the first half but both were TD strikes. The senior connected with Jalen Jones for a 31-yard scoring pass at the 5:54 mark of the second quarter.

The duo teamed up again on the first play of the Storm's next possession. Jones, the quarterback, threw a pass from South Elgin's 20-yard line that Jones, the wide receiver, caught at midfield and outran a Sabre defender to cross the goal line with 1:01 left in the half.

South Elgin held Streamwood (1-5, 1-5) to 173 yards. Estrada accounted for most of the yardage, rushing 29 times for 129 yards.

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## **Stubbs, Larkin run past Bartlett**

**By Allen Oshinski, Daily Herald Correspondent**

**Larkin** wanted the ball in the hands of one of its best weapons more often. The solution was to put him in the backfield ... and it worked.

While lining up at tailback for much of the night, Jamarion Stubbs scored 2 touchdowns to lead Larkin past **Bartlett**, 28-21, at Memorial Field. Chevelle Clements also ran for a score and Dontrell Maxie passed to Tim Scott for another score in the Upstate Eight matchup.

The Royals (3-3, 3-3) scored on the opening possession, then recovered an onside kick. They didn't immediately score but forced a Bartlett punt and this time Stubbs finished off the drive with his first TD.

Bartlett battled back but could never overcome the slow start and some trouble in the red zone. The Hawks drove inside the Larkin 10-yard line twice in the second quarter but had only a Krish Agrawal field goal to show for it.

After the field goal, the Hawks recovered an onside kick of their own and finally found the end zone with Jacob Searce hitting James Knight for the touchdown.

Stubbs carried the ball 16 times for 59 yards and had 1 reception for 14 more. He even attempted a pass out of the backfield and would have had a long completion, but the ball was dropped.

"These past couple of games it has been hard to get me the ball so [coach Grant Dietz] got me in the backfield to get me some more and help the team," said Stubbs. "We knew this was a must-win game when we're trying to get to the playoffs."

The Royals racked up more than 200 yards on the ground, with Clements, Maxie and DeArrius Clardy each running for more than 25 yards.

"The fast start was a good thing for us," Dietz said. "But we did hit a point in that where we had offensive penalties that set us back and we just couldn't seem to get that momentum back on our side. But the defense came through. I knew once they started kicking field goals that we had a chance by moving the ball and scoring touchdowns."

Knight and Agrawal paced the offense for Bartlett (4-2 4-2), mirroring their first-half performances after intermission. Agrawal kicked another field goal to keep the Hawks close, and Knight scored his second touchdown to make it 28-21 with 3:36 left.

But the Royals were able to milk the clock, with Clardy and Maxie picking up key first downs on the Royals' final drive, keeping the ball out of Bartlett's hands.

Scearce completed 14 of 25 for 171 yards with the 1 touchdown and no interceptions.

"We came out slow on defense," said Bartlett coach Matt Erlenbaugh. "They hit us in the mouth, then they got the ball right back with the popup onside kick. It took us awhile to get going but there's just a lot of things that we've got to look at tomorrow and correct and move forward from it."

