

Press Clippings - 11/20/2023

- Capitol News Illinois - State school board weighs increased funding requests ahead of budget season

By: Peter Hancock

November 17, 2023



Illinois Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders listens to public comments during the Illinois State Board of Education's monthly meeting in Chicago on Nov. 16. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Andrew Adams)

Advocates continue call to speed up contributions to new state funding formula

SPRINGFIELD – Officials at the Illinois State Board of Education say they're receiving more requests for increased funding for next year than the state could possibly afford, and they're bracing for the possibility that budgets will start to tighten in the near future.

"It does appear that revenue will be a little bit tighter in the next four to five years," ISBE's chief financial officer Matt Seaton told the board at its monthly meeting Thursday. "And with other state pressures, whether that be pension payments or what have you, it would be our anticipation that the budgets are going to start to restrict a little bit."

Seaton delivered a summary of the funding increase requests that ISBE received from districts and members of the public during a series of hearings on the agency's budget last month. Those requested increases, he said, totaled just over \$1.7 billion.

The largest of those was for an increase in Evidence-Based Funding, or EBF dollars. That's the formula that lawmakers approved in 2017 aimed at eventually bringing all

districts up to an adequate level of funding.

Under the law, the state is required to add at least \$350 million in new funding each year to its preK-12 spending, with the bulk of that money earmarked for districts that are the least adequately funded. During the budget hearings, however, advocates pushed for an even bigger increase – roughly \$550 million.

Advocates made a similar request last year. But Tony Sanders, who took over as state superintendent of education in February, was reluctant at that time to request more than what is required under state law. He has indicated he's unlikely to change that position.

“I'm in it for the long run to make sure that we're able to sustain that funding year over year at the \$350 million level,” Sanders, a former superintendent of **School District U-46** in Elgin, told Capitol News Illinois during an interview in March. “So I was fully on board with \$350 million. But even as a former school district leader, I was not supportive of the \$550 million that was being requested.”

Seaton said many of the funding requests ISBE received during the hearings were similar to previous years – an additional \$75 million for early childhood education, for example, and \$10 million more for career and technical education.

But he said there were also some new categories of funding requests this year, including requests to replace a stream of temporary federal funding that is about to be discontinued. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, or ESSER funding, helped cover some extraordinary expenses schools incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

So far, according to ISBE data, nearly \$7.8 billion of ESSER funding has come to Illinois since March 2020, but nearly all of that went directly to school districts.

Of that money, about \$5.3 billion has been spent, with more than a third – \$1.8 billion – going toward salaries, \$1 billion going toward purchased services such as outside contracts, and \$681 million for supplies and materials.

That funding stream will end in September 2024, which will leave many districts facing some tough budget choices heading into the 2024-2025 academic year.

The budget discussion at the state board came one day after the Governor's Office of Management and Budget issued its latest five-year revenue projections. That report included a \$1.4 billion upward revision to the revenue estimate for the current fiscal year, bringing the total estimate for this year to just over \$52 billion.

But the report by GOMB also said that bump in revenue could be largely offset by \$1 billion in additional spending needs this year. And the report suggests that revenue for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, could drop slightly, to \$51.5 billion, and then experience modest growth in the years after that.

GOMB noted that while most economists are no longer predicting an imminent recession, several “recession related characteristics” exist that could affect future economic performance, and thus future state revenues. Those include consumers dipping into savings and taking out more debt to maintain spending levels and the resumption of student loan repayment that could reduce consumer spending. Meanwhile, the Illinois Department of Employment Security reported Thursday that nonfarm payroll jobs in Illinois fell by 15,000 in October while the state’s unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a point, to 4.6 percent, well above the national rate of 3.9 percent.

Thursday’s discussion at ISBE was only a preliminary step toward developing a budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year. Seaton said agency staff will make a more formal proposal at the board’s December meeting. The board is expected to vote on a formal budget request in January.

- Daily Herald -

Girls basketball: Scouting Fox

By: Mike Mlazga, Alex Kantecki and Jake Bartelson
11/18/2023



Batavia's Brooke Carlson, a Colorado State recruit, averaged 20 points a game last season. (Gary E Duncan Sr./Shaw Local News Network)



Burlington Central's Kenzie Andersen drives to the basket against Belvidere North on Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, during pool play girls basketball game in the Burlington Central Thanksgiving Tournament. Gregory Shaver/Shaw Local News Network

Coach: LeVada Smith (sixth season)

Last season: 26-7, 6-2 (first)

Top returning players: Riley Cwinski, jr., F; Sofia Corral, jr. G; Anna-Marie Godina, sr., G

Key newcomers: Brooklyn Murphy, jr. G; Gina Dutkanych, soph., G; Nora Schwartz, fresh., G

Worth noting: The Chargers, winners of a regional title last year, return all-state special-mention selection Cwinski (16.4 points, 7 rebounds, 2 steals), along with Corral (11.8 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists) and Godina (10.8 points, 80 threes) -- giving them nearly 40 points of scoring experience from a year ago. All three were all-conference picks. ACC is in its first year in the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (along with locals Rosary, St. Francis and IC Catholic Prep). "We have experience and leadership," Smith said. "We have a good number of players where it will be their third or fourth year of varsity play. What gets me pumped about this group is how they support one another. I am anxious to see if this group can take the next step in overall success on the floor."

Bartlett

Coach: Tanner Gardon (third season)

Last season's record: 8-24, 6-12 UEC (seventh)

Top returning players: Amadea Montijo, sr., G; Trinity Thompson, sr., F; Cecilia Desarden, jr., G; Emily Linkevich, jr., G; Christina Stankus, jr., F

Key newcomers: Megan Kron, jr., G; Elsie Nwabuego, jr., F; Courtney Bridgeforth, soph., G-F

Worth noting: Montijo is a returning all-UEC pick and a Daily Herald All-Area selection. "We will be able to play at a higher pace and do some different things defensively because of that," Gardon said. "We also have a little more depth, which allows us to be more aggressive." Gardon pegs Glenbard South as the team to beat in the Upstate Eight.

"Glenbard South has to be the frontrunners, returning a group of freshmen that started on a team that went undefeated in the Upstate Eight."

Batavia

Coach: Kevin Jensen (ninth season)

Last year: 21-12

Top returners: Brooke Carlson, sr., G, 5-7; Kylee Gehrt, sr., G, 5-9; Addi Lowe, sr., G, 5-7

Key newcomers: Julia Arulandu, jr., G, 5-5; Hallie Crane, jr., F, 5-9; Kaidyn King, jr. G, 5-6

Worth noting: Batavia is firmly in the conversation for among the top three teams in the DuKane Conference. After consecutive regional championships, Batavia is loaded again. Brooke Carlson, a Colorado State commit, is back for her fourth season. Carlson averaged nearly 20 points per game and was the DuKane Conference Player of the Year as well. The lineup has a lot of shooting and athleticism with Carlson, Kylee Gehrt and Addi Lowe. Addie Prewitt is a great defender and the Bulldogs will have a nice rotation.

Burlington Central

Coach: Mike Carani (first season)

Last season's record: 22-11, 12-6 FVC (third)

Top returning players: Emma Payton, sr., C; Kenzie Anderson, sr., G; Jordyn Charles, soph., G; Emersyn Fry, sr. G; Savannah Scheuer, sr., G-F; Mia Hansen, sr. C

Key newcomers: Audrey LaFleur, fresh., G; Ashley Waslo, soph., G

Worth noting: Carani takes over a Rockets team that won 22 games, finished third in the Fox Valley and won a regional title. "We have an athletic, hard-working group that loves to compete. I am excited to see this group get an opportunity to play together and compete." Carani said based on returning/new upcoming talent and strong, consistent coaching within their respective programs, Huntley, Hampshire, Crystal Lake Central and Prairie Ridge are teams that could contend in the FVC. "We have a number of seniors who are eager and ready to prove," he said. LaFleur, a freshman, is the daughter of former **Elgin High** standout Karisa Turek LaFleur and the granddaughter of legendary former **Elgin** coach Lee Turek, who won 359 games in 21 years at Maroons coach, leading **Elgin** to a Class AA runner-up state finish in 1996.

Cary-Grove

Coach: Tony Moretti (fifth season)

Last season's record: 12-18, 7-11 FVC (sixth)

Top returners: Ellie Mjaanes, jr., F; Emily Larry, sr., F; Sam Skerl, jr., G; Malaina Kurth, so., G; Kennedy Manning, so., G

Key newcomers: Kayli McMorris, sr., G.; Alivia Nielsen, jr., F

Worth noting: Larry (7.7 ppg) and Mjaanes (7.1 ppg) led the Trojans in scoring last season. Mjaanes was C-G's lone All-FVC selection. ... Moretti is excited about the Trojans' returning experience after a down year. ... "Our team was incredibly young last year and went through some growing pains, but I expect them to rebound nicely," Moretti said. "They are hungry and excited to prove themselves. We have some good young post players and tough guards."

Crystal Lake South

Coach: Mark Mucha (10th season)

Last season's record: 8-21, 4-14 FVC (tied for eighth)

Top returners: Brynn LeFevre, sr., G; Carly Gorman, sr., G; Laken LePage, so., G

Key newcomers: Mady Law, sr., F; Kirra Hansen, sr., F; Adi Schwab, jr., G; Mallory Glover, fr., G; Makena Cleary, fr., G; Tessa Melhuish, fr., F

Worth noting: The Gators will have a very inexperienced team with many first-time varsity players. ... LePage will miss her sophomore season after suffering a torn ACL in August. LePage averaged 11.1 points a game as a freshman and nailed 22 3s. ... South graduated its top post player in Nicole Molgado (9.8 ppg, 11.1 rpg) and one of their most physical players in Hanna Massie (9.1 rpg). ... "We are going to have lots of kids getting their first varsity minutes," Mucha said. "I can't wait to see how they perform and watch their growth throughout the season."

Dundee-Crown

Coach: John Gonnella (second season)

Last season's record: 9-22, 4-14 (tied for eighth)

Top returners: Monica Sierzputowski, sr., F; Theriz Mercado, sr., G; Charlotte Stewart, jr., G

Worth noting: The Chargers showed improvement in the FVC after winning only one conference game in 2022. ... D-C graduated its lone All-FVC selection in Kendall Brents. ... Sierzputowski, a 6-foot-1 forward, missed time at the start of season while recovering from injury. She will play next year at Oakton College. ... D-C defeated McHenry 41-35 in a Class 4A Jacobs Regional semifinal ... "We are consistently striving to improve and develop our talent to remain competitive in all of our games," Gonnella said.

Elgin

Coach: Dr. Nick Bumbales (15th season; 36th year at EHS)

Last year's record: 8-24, 1-17 UEC

Top returning players: Izzie Castro, jr., 5-7, SG; Jocelyn Bardesi, sr., 5-4, PG

Key newcomers: Bella Coleman, sr., 5-7, G; Madison King, sr., 5-6, F; Mahita Ratakonda, jr., 5-10, C; Kelly Taruc, jr., 5-1 G; Stephanie Asare, sr., 5-7, F; Chloe Horn, sr., 5-7, F; Maile Fuller, sr., 5-6, F; Shaniya Coleman, sr., 5-6, F

Worth noting: Castro, a captain along with Bardesi, averaged 10 points last year and broke **Elgin** Sports Hall of Famer Melissa Parker's long-standing record for most 3-pointers made in a season with 63. She was an all-Upstate Eight pick last year, Bardesi, a two-time UEC honorable mention pick, is back after averaging 4 points and 3 assists. Ratakonda was the **Elgin** JV team's leading scorer. "Even though we only have 2 returning starters, we do have a fair amount of experience returning," Bumbales noted. "It is a good, balanced mix of players who might be our best offensive group in some time. Bumbales, a fixture at **Elgin High** over the years in both basketball programs, is retiring from coaching at season's end. "Obviously, being my last year of a long career has myself and the girls pumped up," he said. Bumbales noted both Glenbards are teams to watch in the UEC. "Glenbard East has a tough, deep, physical group that will be tough

for most teams in the conference to match up with," he said. "Glenbard South is very talented. If they can stay healthy, they are the team to beat." **Elgin** has been named to the IBCA academic all-state team for the past three years, the only UEC team, boys or girls, to do so. Bardesi is the first four-time varsity captain of any sport in the 125-year history of **Elgin High** athletic, Bumbales stated. Bumbales has been a head coach in the girls basketball, softball and girls volleyball programs. He also served 21 years as team physician and volunteer assistant in the boys basketball program.

Elgin Academy

Coach: Eddie Mercado (second season)

Last season's record: 2 wins

Top returning players: Lily Perez, sr., G; Mia Velsaquez, jr., G; Tori Hill, sr., F

Key newcomers: Frieda Euscher-Klingenhsgen, sr., 6-2, C

Worth noting: The Hilltoppers graduated three seniors from last year's team. "I'm very excited for this year, although we will be very young because we lost the three seniors," Mercado explained. The Hilltoppers will be without senior forward Kate Kihnke for the season due to injury. Mercado also said freshmen Amanda Alvarado (guard), Abrielle Novelli (guard) and Selina Chen (forward) have potential. "We only won two games last year in my first year, but we had many close games," Mercado pointed out. "I am hoping we can make a leap and win more of those close ones this year. We plan to be live underdogs every game." Mercado said the 6-2 Euscher-Klingenhsgen, a newcomer to the team, has potential.

Geneva

Coach: Sarah Meadows (13th season)

Last season's record: 31-4

Top returners: Leah Palmer, sr., F, 5-11; Caroline Madden, sr., G, 5-7; Kinsey Gracey, G, 5-6

Key newcomers: Bridget Hecker, jr., F, 5-9; Perri Sweeney, G, jr., 5-7;

Worth noting: Last year's team finished third in Class 4A. While Cassidy Arni and Lauren Slagle graduated from that phenomenal front court, Leah Palmer is still back as the top scoring option and leader of this team. Rilee Hasegawa is another key loss from last year's lineup, but Caroline Madden and Kinsey Gracey will stabilize the guard position. Madden, in particular, is an exceptional on-ball defender and provides toughness. Geneva ran through the DuKane Conference undefeated last year, and while it remains to be seen how the rotation will fully settle, the Vikings will be jockeying for top position again this year.

Hampshire

Coach: Eric Samuelson (fifth season)

Last season's record: 22-10, 16-2 (second)

Top returners: Avery Cartee, sr., G-F; Ashley Herzing, sr., G; Sophie Oleferchik, sr., F; Whitney Thompson, sr., G; Chloe VanHorn, jr., G-F; Mikala Amegasse, so., G

Key newcomers: Katheryn Cardona, sr., F; Belle Eckert, sr., G-F; Audree Khotisene, sr., G-F; Kate Pearsall, sr., G; Autumn Kriegel, jr., G-F; Kiley Podzimek, jr., G; Morgan Trent, jr., G-F; Ginger Younger, so., G

Worth noting: The Whip-Purs' only two conference losses last year came to Huntley, going from six wins in FVC play in 2022 to 16 in 2023. ... Whitney Thompson and Herzing return as All-FVC selections. Herzing led the team in scoring at 9.2 points a game and was second in the area with 60 3-pointers. Thompson averaged 8.1 points a game and had 44 3s. ... Cartee, who is committed to Wisconsin-Whitewater (D-III), averaged 6.6 points a game and returns as a captain, along with Thompson and Herzing. ... Amegasse stood out over the summer, Samuelson said. ... "The eight seniors on our team have brought incredible leadership to our program, and we're honored to be part of their final high school journey," Samuelson said. "We have a chance to be fairly balanced on the offensive end. As always, defense will be the key. We will need to play great team defense this season."

Harvest Christian Academy

Coach: Jeremy Burke (fifth season)

Last season's record: 12-14, 5-1 (won NAC tournament)

Top returning players: Daphne Brown, jr., G; Alyssa Burke, jr., G-F; Ellie Semerau, jr., G; Mckenna Nestricks, sr., F-

Key newcomers: Izzy Abraham G-F; Paige Nestricks, soph., G-F

Worth noting: Brown, the NAC MVP, was the team's leader in scoring, assists and steals last year, while Burke, an all-NAC selection, was the team's top rebounder and was second in scoring, assists and steals. Mckenna Nestricks was a second-team all-NAC pick, while Semerau earned honorable-mention all-conference accolades. "We only lost one senior from last year's team, so our core returners are great," Burke noted. "This is a great group of girls that will work hard all season and will be playing their best basketball at the end of it." Burke said Harvest and Rockford Christian Life should be the top contenders in the Northeastern Athletic. Harvest split a pair of games with Life with Harvest winning in the title game of the conference tournament. Burke added Harvest has several girls who are multisport athletes and had great fall seasons. "We had girls that made it to the supersectional in volleyball and our cross country team went Downstate," he said. "We are looking to carry that success into the basketball season It might take us a bit to get started, but I can't wait to see the outcome at the end."

Huntley

Coach: Steve Raethz (25th season)

Last season's record: 28-5, 18-0 FVC (first)

Top returners: Anna Campanelli, jr., G; Cassidy Serpe, sr., G; Yasmine Morsy, sr., F; Ava McFadden, jr., G; Isabella Boskey, jr., F

Key newcomers: Paula Strzelecki, jr., F; Madison Diaz, jr., G; Luca Garlin, so., G; Gwen Campbell, so., F; Aubrina Adamik, so., G; Cece Romano, so., G; Kylie Lucas, sr., G; Mia Garlin, sr., G; Elizabeth Johnson, sr., G; Alyssa Borzych, fr., G

Worth noting: The Red Raiders carry a 28-FVC game-winning streak into the season and have won the past two FVC titles. Huntley's 23 wins were its most since finishing 30-4 in 2016. The Raiders fell to Guilford 43-30 in a Class 4A Huntley Regional final. ... Huntley graduated eight seniors, including Jessie Ozzauto (16.2 ppg, 6.8 rpg) and Sammi Campanelli (11.9 ppg, 4.4 rpg). ... Anna Campanelli averaged 8.1 points, 4.4 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 2.2 steals as a sophomore. ... McFadden made 29 3s and Serpe had 16. ... "Although we return only five players from our varsity team from last season, we have a group of players who work extremely hard and are very coachable, and we feel like we have the opportunity to improve and grow as the season progresses," Raethz said.

Kaneland

Coach: Brian Claesson (second season)

Last season: 15-17, 8-6 Interstate 8 Conference (third), lost in regional final to Sycamore

Top returners: Kendra Brown, jr., G; Lexi Schueler, sr., G; Sam Kerry, jr., G/F; Berlyn Ruh, sr., F; Emily Kunzer, sr., F.

Top newcomers: Kyra Lilly, so., G; Amani Meeks, fr., G.

Worth noting: Kaneland had an up-and-down season last year, losing many close games. Six of Kaneland's 17 losses from last year were by three points or fewer. Claesson hopes that some of those bounces will go the Knights' way after his team gets more acquainted with his philosophies. "Last year was the first year in the new system, and now we have that foundation set, which allows us to add new wrinkles into what we did last year,"

Claesson said. "We had a great offseason. It was great to see the team bond through the summer and into the fall. It is a fun group to be around. We have seen a lot of individual growth over the offseason, and now it's our job to mix individual growths into our team structure." Claesson also thinks that his team is more athletic and deeper this season.

"We are not the biggest team, but we are going to use our speed to our advantage,"

Claesson said. "It is a great group of girls that are extremely smart. We know teams are going to focus on [Brown] and [Schueler], but we feel like we have a lot of depth that will surprise some teams.

Jacobs

Coach: Jonathon Reibel (sixth season)

Last season's record: 3-28, 1-17 FVC (10th)

Top returners: Cam Cook, sr., F; Baylle Fee, sr., F; Hailey Franczkowski, sr., F; Ashley Jedlowski, sr., G; Emma Lutz, sr., G; Mikayla Weel, jr., G; Zara Lewis, so., G

Key newcomers: Alondra Correa, sr., G; Sophia Acot, jr., G; Olivia Schuldt, jr., F; Amber Rasool, jr., F; Zoe VerBurg, jr., G; Mallory Fessler, so., G; Olivia Schuster, fr., F

Worth noting: The Golden Eagles had a down year with only one conference win after going 8-10 in FVC play in 2022. Reibel likes his team's depth and their ability to play different styles. He said Schuster, a 6-foot-4 freshman, will be a player to watch this season, Reibel said. Weel is returning from a torn ACL she suffered in the opener last season... "We have an extremely committed and hard-working group that is determined to turn things around this season," Reibel said. "All 14 players will be counted on to contribute every night. This group will make each game very exciting to watch."

Larkin

Coach: Steve Knapp (ninth season)

Last season's record: 18-14, 10-8 UEC (fifth)

Top returning players: Sanaii McPherson, soph., SF; Mia Carter, soph., SG; Gabby Ploche, sr., PG

Key newcomers: Mackenzie Leaver, fresh., G

Worth noting: McPherson averaged 9.2 points, 7.9 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 2.4 steals per game as a ninth-grader last year, while classmate Carter was at 7.1 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals. Both were honorable mention all-UEC. Ploche averaged 4 points, 4 rebounds and 3 assists. "We will be quick up and down the floor because we are guard-heavy," Knapp said. "Many of the girls had a great summer so it is nice to see the growth in this group." Knapp concurred with the thought that both Glenbards are the teams to beat in the UEC this season along with Bartlett. **Larkin** has 4 seniors, 1 junior, 4 sophomores and a freshman on the roster. "We will be fun to watch the next couple years," Knapp said.

Rosary

Coach: Ken Ubertino (first season)

Last year's record: 6-25, 0-5 GCAC (sixth)

Top returning players: Megan Molenhouse, sr., G; Erin Murray, sr., Wing; Tes Ketterman, sr., Wing

Key newcomers: Ellie Figueras, sr., G; Maddie Stumm, jr., Wing; Karyna Brohl, jr., G; Peyton Saltijeral, soph., G

Worth noting: New coach Ubertino said strengths of the team include athleticism and defense. "I'm excited about our pace of play and playing positionless basketball," he said. Ubertino said Montini, Chicago Resurrection and Aurora Central are teams to beat in the GCAC. Murray, Figueras, Ketterman and Molenhouse are National Honors Society members at Rosary.

South Elgin

Coach: Emily Driessen (first season)

Last season's record: 16-17, 11-7 UEC (fourth)

Top returning players: Madison Hunt, sr., G; Lexi Lopez, sr., G

Key newcomers: Olivia Miller, fresh., F; Mia Speidel, sr., G; Taleah Banner, soph., F; Molly Stahl, soph., G

Outlook: "We are a young team with not a lot of varsity experience, so we are going to rely on our energy and our ability to grow together," first-year Storm coach Driessen said. "We plan to take big strides week in and week out to be better in February."

Driessen noted Glenbard South won the UEC last year and has the majority of its team back, and feels Glenbard East and **Larkin** both will have strong programs this season.

Driessen noted the team will play the season with heavy hearts and honor Kamorra Campbell, who would have been a senior on the team this season. She passed on after a car accident on the way to school this past fall. "As a program and team, we have a lot

more to play for this season," said Driessen, who had coached Campbell the past two years.

St. Charles East

Coach: Katie Claussner (first season)

Last season's record: 10-19

Top returners: Lexi DiOrion, sr., G, 5-6; Alexis Maridis, sr., G, 5-2; Corrine Reed, jr., G,

Key newcomers: Addie Schilb, jr., G 5-7

Worth noting: Claussner is in her first season as varsity head coach. The 2015 St. Charles East graduate, Claussner takes over the bench from Josh Foster. The Saints are really solid at guard. DiOrion, the IU-Kokomo commit, is back for her fourth season and plays an all-around strong game. Maridis missed a lot of time last season, but should bring a lot of balance at point guard. Reed also will build on a strong season and brings great shooting ability to the floor.

St. Charles North

Coach: Mike Tomczak (eighth season)

Last season's record: 26-7

Top returners: Katrina Stack, sr., F, 6-3; Reagan Sipla, sr., G/F, 6-1; Laney Stark, sr., G, 5-7

Key newcomers: Elle Fuhr, so. F, 6-0; Hannah Ganser, jr. G, 5-8; Mia Hoppes, sr., G, 5-7;

Worth noting: Alyssa Hughes and Julia Larson's graduations from last year's backcourt are huge considering their respective shooting and defense. However, Stark, Stack and Sipla are back in their spots from last season and will carry over their team growth from last year. Stark's defense will be key with Stack and Sipla ideally getting inside offensive looks to take advantage of their shooting and size. Fuhr brought energy and defense last year, while Hoppes should bring some shooting help.

St. Edward

Coach: Michelle Dawson (20th season)

Last season's record: 7-25, 4-8

Top returning players: Mogan Lutzow, sr., G; Amelia Davis, jr., F; Maggie Jarzemsky, jr., F; Elizabeth Leadley, jr., G; Madeline Sasis, jr., G; Alaina Nolan, soph., G; Jordin Sauls, soph., F

Key newcomers: Layne Dawson, fresh., G; Taylor Dawson, fresh., F; Sarah Gurley, fresh., G; Savannah Lynch, fresh., G

Outlook: Dawson, assisted by Roxanne Leadley, is 11 wins away from hitting the 300 mark for her career. Youthful experience will be on display in the early going for the Green Wave. "While we are still quite young, we now have some experienced varsity players," Dawson said. "Our returning players Maggie and Madeline will be leading the team along with freshman Savannah Lynch. We are looking forward to the Oregon Tipoff tournament to see how our athleticism and understanding of the game begin to gel on the court. I am impressed with the work ethic of our team throughout the first week of practice." This is St. Edward's first year in the new Chicagoland Christian Conference,

which has 8 teams for girls basketball. "The new conference brings about a few changes, playing each team only once and then having an end-of-season conference tournament," Dawson explained.

Streamwood

Coach: Elizabeth Endriukaitis (second season)

Last season's record: 3-28, 1-17 UEC

Top returning players: Jami Gatlin, sr., F; Kailey Pawlikowski, jr., F; Casie Cruz, jr., F; Angelina Sagadraca, jr., PG; Briana Coffey, soph., F

Key newcomer: Ayumi Ishikawa, fresh., G

Worth noting: "Our strengths this season will be our speed and having more experience," Endriukaitis said. "We are returning four players who have played together for two-plus years. As a newer head coach, not to the program, my goal is to change the culture at Streamwood and bring back a culture of working hard and striving for positive change, learning that sometimes we have to make sacrifices for the greater good and the betterment of the team and program," Endriukaitis said.

West Aurora

Coach: Teresa Waldinger

Last season's record: 15-16, 9-7 SWP West (third)

Top returning players: Niallie Evans, sr., PG

Worth noting: Evans is back after averaging 6.7 points, 4.4 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.5 steals last year. "Most of our players were on JV last year and had limited varsity minutes," Waldinger said. "However, several of them are aggressive and have a hunger for the game. We will be the hardest-working team on the floor. We have a great group of girls. I think people are underestimating us with Aspen Weeks graduating. We have a lot of heart and this crew is like a family." Freshman Syncere Williams will be a strong addition for the Blackhawks. "Syncere has a great basketball IQ and will prove valuable this season with her moves, shooting and speed," Waldinger said. West Aurora also has two transfer students in Kanylah Young and Anyae Newson, both seniors. "The girls have seemed to gel really well out of the gate," Waldinger said. "We're hoping that continues with their additions." Waldinger noted Plainfield North, Yorkville and Minooka are teams to keep an eye on in the Southwest Prairie West. "We're looking to finish at the top of the conference with our work ethic leading the way," she said.

- Chicago Tribune -

Football and local scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

By: From Staff Reports

Nov 17, 2023



Batavia's Luke Alwin (12) scores on a pass from Ryan Boe as Lincoln-Way Central's Ryan Mackowiak (23) defends during a Class 7A second-round playoff game in Batavia on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

Results and highlights of high schools and local colleges from the Southland and Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County coverage areas.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

FOOTBALL

CCL/ESCC CHAMPIONSHIP

St. Rita 24, Marist 14

St. Rita (7-5): Steven Armbruster 3 TD passes to Jimmie Maxson (23, 13, 50 yards).

Marist (6-6): Owen Winters 28-yard TD run. John McAuliffe 60-yard TD run.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

BEECHER FALL CLASSIC

Rich Township 41, Andrew 39

Rich Township (3-0): E'Mani Spencer 16 points. Sherrie Emmons 13 points.

St. Laurence 50, T.F. North 20

St. Laurence (2-0): Riley Galvin 9 points.

Peotone 50, Beecher 33

BENET/NAPERVILLE CENTRAL TOURNAMENT

Batavia 76, Benet 48

Batavia (1-0): Brooke Carlson 29 points. Kylee Gehrt 15 points.

Kenwood 75, Homewood-Flossmoor 59

BURLINGTON CENTRAL TOURNAMENT

Kaneland 32, Prairie Ridge 28

Kaneland (2-1): Kendra Brown 19 points.

St. Charles North 67, Moline 32

HAMPSHIRE TOURNAMENT

Fremd 56, Lake Zurich 46

IMSA TOURNAMENT

West Chicago 54, **Elgin** 21, championship

JOLIET WEST TOURNAMENT

Lincoln-Way Central 49, Minooka 25

Lincoln-Way Central (3-0): Lina Panos 18 points, 11 rebounds. Gracen Gehrke 14 points.

Lincoln-Way West 58, Joliet Central 41

Lincoln-Way West (1-2): Molly Finn 20 points. Caroline Smith 17 points.

Providence 60, Plainfield North 38

Providence (3-0): Bella Morey 15 points. Sydney Spencer 13 points. Eilish Raines 11 points.

Joliet West 65, Joliet Catholic 44

JCA: Symone Holman 12 points.

LYONS TOURNAMENT

Lyons 56, Oak Lawn 40

Oak Lawn (0-1): Lamia Quinones 14 points. Maeve Hassett 12 points, 7 rebounds. Jacky Canales 11 points.

MUNDELEIN TOURNAMENT

Mundelein 35, Highland Park 32

Mundelein (4-0): Casey Vyverman 11 points. Rylan Foster 11 points.

Highland Park (1-3): Kourtnie Halperin 15 points.

RICHARDS TOURNAMENT

Shepard 55, Eisenhower 25

Shepard (3-1): Jessica Manley 15 points. Emma Greene 13 points. Mia Stokes 11 points.

Eisenhower: Karissa Monfort 12 points.

Payton 38, Thornton 37

Thornton (2-1): Phalan Sigers 16 points. Sajda Tyehimba 10 points.

SOMONAUK TOURNAMENT

Aurora Central Catholic 64, Sandwich 36

ACC (4-0): Won tournament.

Newark 52, Plano 38

Newark (3-1): Addison Ness 15 points, 7 rebounds, 5 steals.

Plano (1-3): Josie Larson 21 points.

Dwight 47, Somonauk 25

WILLOWBROOK TOURNAMENT

Montini Catholic 59, Lockport 47

Lockport (1-2): Laura Arstikaitis 15 points. Veronica Bafia 10 points.

YORK TOURNAMENT

Waubonsie Valley 62, Prospect 18, championship

St. Charles East 63, Glenbrook South 41, third

Downers Grove South 52, Oswego East 41

Oswego East: Desiree Merritt 14 points.

LOCAL COLLEGES

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Judson 77, St. Mary of the Woods (Ind.) 75

Judson (1-4): Cobie Barnes 24 points.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Governors State 92, Great Lakes Christian (Mich.) 53

Governors State (2-1): Kendall Winston 25 points.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Glenbard West 64, West Aurora 48

Lemont 42, Morton 37

Lemont (1-0): Magdalene Mikroulis 15 points. Lexi Reyna 11 points. Jess Windstrup 10 points.

Streamwood 48, Glenbard North 38

BEECHER FALL CLASSIC

Rich Township 44, Beecher 14

Bradley-Bourbonnais 37, Crete-Monee 32

Kankakee 52, T.F. North 33

Peotone 50, Oak Forest 18

BUFFALO GROVE TOURNAMENT

Grayslake Central 50, Buffalo Grove 32

Grayslake Central (1-0): Madison Hoffmann 13 points, 12 rebounds, 5 steals, 4 assists, 3 blocks. Annie Wolff 12 points, 7 rebounds.

Libertyville 57, Carmel 43

Libertyville (2-0): Rachel Rule 30 points.

CHICAGO CHRISTIAN TOURNAMENT

Reavis 53, Chicago Christian 19

HARVARD TOURNAMENT

Willows 64, Waukegan 44

HINSDALE CENTRAL/HINSDALE SOUTH TOURNAMENT

Sandburg 65, Oak Park-River Forest 15

Sandburg (1-0): Olivia Trunk 17 points, 7 rebounds. Juliana Paddock 13 points, 10 rebounds.

Hinsdale South 54, Metea Valley 35

Nazareth 48, Neuqua Valley 24

HOFFMAN ESTATES TOURNAMENT

Rolling Meadows 65, Zion-Benton 13

IMSA TOURNAMENT

Elgin 48, Earlville 44 (2 OT)

Elgin (3-0): Izzie Castro 20 points.

West Chicago 53, IMSA 14

MAINE EAST TOURNAMENT

Lakes 42, Wheeling 28

Lakes (2-0): Emily Ovaska 14 points, 5 rebounds. Kaylee Anderson 19 rebounds.

Round Lake 48, McHenry 27

Round Lake (1-1): Judy Cerroblanco 15 points. Brianna Arteaga 15 points.

RICHARDS TOURNAMENT

Thornton 48, Richards 40

Thornton (2-0): Phalan Sigers 24 points.

Richards (0-3): Iyanah Crosby 15 points. Mercedes Santiago 10 points.

Payton 41, Evergreen Park 25

SCHAUMBURG TOURNAMENT

Downers Grove North 58, Bartlett 26

Wheaton Warrenville South 62, Deerfield 32

SOMONAUK TOURNAMENT

Newark 55, Dwight 39

WILLOWBROOK TOURNAMENT

Lockport 51, Willowbrook 28

Lockport (1-1): Veronica Bafia 11 points. Lucy Hynes 10 points.

YORK TOURNAMENT

Marist 37, Oswego East 34

St. Charles East 64, Downers Grove South 37

Waubonsie Valley 64, Glenbrook South 46

LOCAL COLLEGES

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Morton 77, Joliet 73

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Moraine Valley 63, DuPage 61

Morton 75, Joliet 51

- Chicago Tribune -

Patrick Z. McGavin's top 10 wrestling teams and 25 wrestlers to watch in Aurora-Elgin area for 2023-24 season

By: Patrick Z. McGavin

Nov 17, 2023



St. Charles East's Ben Davino, top, and Loyola's Massey Odiotti battle in the 120-pound state championship match in Class 3A at the State Farm Center in Champaign on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

Returning state champions Ben Davino, Dom Munaretto and Jayden Colon keep St. Charles East on top, while Marmion, Yorkville and Yorkville Christian look to make noise.

Top 10 Teams

1. St. Charles East (22-1)

Saints return six state top-six finishers and three champions from Class 3A dual team state championship team. Senior Ben Davino (132), with three individual titles, is the state's most dominant wrestler. Undefeated sophomore Dom Munaretto (113) and senior Jayden Colon (144) also are returning state champions.

2. Marmion (18-2)

Cadets plan to utilize versatility, skill and top-level experience to offset graduation losses. Sophomores Nicholas Garcia (113), Zach Stewart (138) and Joey Favia (190) will put fans in the seats. Senior Collin Carrigan (157) is a two-time state qualifier.

3. Yorkville (18-7)

Senior state champion Ben Alvarez (215) and junior third-place finisher Luke Zook (175) lead stacked lineup. Foxes are superb in lower and middle weights, with seniors Dominic Recchia (126) and Dom Coronado (144) and juniors Jack Ferguson (150) and Ryder Janeczko (157) leading the way.

4. Yorkville Christian (22-6)

After winning the Class 1A dual team state championship two season ago and producing a runner-up finish last winter, the Mustangs make the move up to 2A. Senior Ty Edwards (132) was a state runner-up last season and junior Aiden Larsen (113) took fourth. Senior Grason Johnson (138) and junior Robby Nelson (157) add depth.

5. West Aurora (18-9)

Senior Noah Quintana (155) leads a solid nucleus of six returning starters. Junior Dominic Serio (150) was a state qualifier. Serio's younger brother, Dayne (165), is a standout sophomore.



West Aurora's Noah Quintana, top, works to escape from Naperville Central's Christopher Ramirez during a 145-pound match at the Wheaton Warrenville South Mega Duals on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021. (Jon Cunningham / The Beacon-News)

6. Batavia (9-15)

Bulldogs have lower weight standouts in senior Ino Garcia (120) and junior Aidan Huck (132) and also will showcase senior Ben Brown (190) and juniors Asher Sheldon (215) and Kyle Peyton. Both Garcia and Huck are two-time state qualifiers. Senior Sydney Perry (145), a two-time state champion, is one of the best female wrestlers in the country.

7. **South Elgin** (19-6)

Sophomore Demetrios Carrera (120) is bigger, stronger and faster heading into this season. Storm also look for improvement, and excitement, from Julius Avendano (106), Leo Rosas (150) and Tommy Roath (285).

8. Kaneland (10-4)

Knights return four sectional qualifiers, led by juniors Kamron Scholl (120) and Alex Gochis (126) and senior Kyle Rogers (138). Junior Brooklyn Sheaffer is one of the top girls wrestlers in the state at 120.

9. Hampshire (13-7)

Senior Joey Ochoa (285), a returning sectional qualifier, is the leader of young, talented group. Whip-Purs feature sophomores Lou Jensen (113) and Michael Brannigan (157) and junior Chris Naprikowski (150).

10. Sandwich (21-14)

Traditional small school power touts several returning sectional qualifiers in seniors

Miles Corder (150) and Ashlyn Strenz (115), who finished fourth in the girls state meet. Senior Sy Smith (165) is another standout.



Yorkville's Ben Alvarez, left, tries to get control of Loyola's Kai Calcutt in 220-pound championship match of the Class 3A state meet at the University of Illinois' State Farm Center in Champaign on Saturday, February 18, 2023. (Rob Dicker / The Beacon-News)

The 25 Players To Watch

Yamilet Aguirre, Yorkville, senior, 120 pounds.

Ben Alvarez, Yorkville, senior, 215.

Demetrios Carrera, South Elgin, sophomore, 113.

Jayden Colon, St. Charles East, senior, 144.

Ben Davino, St. Charles East, senior, 132.

Ty Edwards, Yorkville Christian, senior, 132.

Emma Engels, **Bartlett**, junior, 110.

Ino Garcia, Batavia, senior, 120.

Nicholas Garcia, Marmion, sophomore, 113.

Tyler Guerra, St. Charles East, senior, 138.

Aidan Huck, Batavia, senior, 120.

Brittney Moran, West Aurora, junior, 190.

Dom Munaretto, St. Charles East, sophomore, 113.

Joey Ochoa, Hampshire, senior, heavyweight.

Sydney Perry, Batavia, senior, 145.

Joe Pettit, Geneva, junior, 215.

Noah Quintana, West Aurora, senior, 157.

Ionnica Rivera, West Aurora, senior, 155.

Dominic Serio, West Aurora, junior, 150.

Brooklyn Sheaffer, Kaneland, junior, 120.

Zach Stewart, Marmion, sophomore, 138.

Ashlyn Strenz, Sandwich, senior, 115.

Arnold Walker, East Aurora, senior, heavyweight.

Kameyah Young, East Aurora, sophomore, 105.

- Chicago Tribune -

Rick Armstrong's top 10 boys basketball teams and 25 players to watch in Aurora-Elgin area for 2023-24 season

By: Rick Armstrong

Nov 17, 2023



Oswego East's Jehvion Starwood (22) goes up for a basket against the Yorkville during a Southwest Prairie West game on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023. (Mark Black / The Beacon-News)

Oswego East and Yorkville, both with Division I recruits, headline talented group, including seven teams that won at least 20 games last season.

Top 10 Teams

1. Oswego East (29-6)

Jehvion Starwood (Wyoming), a 6-foot-3 senior combo guard who averaged 10 points and three assists last season, is the lone returning starter. Cupboard isn't bare for Wolves, who haven't lost in conference play in three years. Starwood's help begins with 6-5 senior guard Noah Mason and 6-3 sophomore guard Mason Lockett.

2. Yorkville (26-6)

Jason Jakstys (Illinois), a 6-11 center/forward who averaged 11 points and eight rebounds, headlines a group of nine returning seniors that include six who started, led by guards Jory Boley, Dayvion Johnson, Kaevian Johnson and Mike Dunn and forward Bryce Salek. Boley averaged 10.1 points.

3. Metea Valley (21-10)

James Parker, a 5-10 senior point guard, and 6-6 guard Will Ashford return to lead the Mustangs. Ashford is receiving NCAA Division II recruiting interest. The return from injury of 6-8 forward Jake Nosek, who has a Division I offer, gives coach Isaiah Davis even more reason for optimism.

4. Geneva (25-10)

Tommy Diamond, a 6-3 senior forward who averaged eight points and nine rebounds, headlines a trio of returning starters from team that lost to Benet last season in a sectional final. Coach Scott Hennig will also rely on 6-2 junior guard Jack Hatton and 6-5 junior forward Hudson Kirby.

5. West Aurora (18-15)

Three double-digit scorers return for first-year coach Michael Fowler in junior guard/forward Terrence Smith (13 points, seven rebounds) and senior guards CJ Savage (10 points) and Jordan Brooks (10 points). Billy Samp, a 6-6 senior forward, and Gabe Gonzales, a 6-7 junior forward, bring good size.



West Aurora's Terrence Smith (24) puts up a shot against Oswego East during the Class 4A Lockport Regional championship game on Friday, Feb. 24, 2023. (Jon Cunningham / The Beacon-News)

6. Batavia (16-15)

Three senior starters return in point guard Nate Nazos, forward CJ Valente and guard Jacob Aseltine, who averaged 9.1, 7.3 and 7.1 points, respectively. However, keep an eye on returning senior guard Jax Abalos, up to 6-7 and holding Division I scholarship offers from Eastern Illinois and Bryant.

7. **Bartlett** (19-13)

Nathan Scarce, a 6-4 senior guard who averaged 17 points, will be the starring attraction for the Hawks, who lost guard Kelton McEwen and his 18 points in a transfer to Wheaton St. Francis. Three athletic juniors — 6-6 Dimitre Petrasiunas, 6-3, Colin Taylor and 6-3 Keegan Taylor — have good size.

8. Kaneland (26-6)

Six players with experience return from last season's undefeated conference champs, led by three starters in senior guard Troyer Carlson, senior forward Parker Violet and junior forward Freddy Hassan. Three guards — sophomore Evan Frieders, junior Luke Reinert and senior Brad Franck — will all contribute.

9. Burlington Central (29-6)

Rockets can replace size void left by the graduation of 6-9 post Drew Scharnowski, who's now at Belmont, but can they replace his guard skills? Three returnees — 6-10 Aidan Wilson, 6-7 Myles Lowe and 6-5 Jake Johnson — give coach Brett Porto a trio of forwards with good size for starters.

10. Aurora Christian (22-13)

Eagles bring back three starters from their Class 2A sectional finalist. Cam Morel, a 6-4 senior forward, averaged 12.4 points, while 6-0 sophomore guard Marshawn Cocroft averaged 12 points and 6-2 sophomore forward Jalen Carter followed at 5.6.



Aurora Christian guard Cam Morel (2) drives past Elmwood Park's Richie Reyes during their Metro Suburban crossover game in Aurora on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023. (Jon Cunningham / The Beacon-News)

The 25 Players To Watch

Will Ashford, Metea Valley, senior, guard.

Jalen Bealer, East Aurora, senior, guard.

Treshawn Blissett, Waubonsie Valley, senior, guard/forward.

Jory Boley, Yorkville, senior, guard.

Jordan Brooks, West Aurora, senior, guard.

Troyer Carlson, Kaneland, senior, guard.

Danny Connolly, St. Charles North, senior guard.

Tommy Diamond, Geneva, senior, forward.

Marshawn Cocroft, Aurora Christian, sophomore guard.

Maddox Hollian, **Elgin**, senior, guard.

Jason Jakstys, Yorkville, senior, center/forward.

Ben Jurzak, Jacobs, junior, guard.

Martin Ledbetter, Hinckley-Big Rock, junior, forward.

Noah Mason, Oswego East, senior, guard.

Cam Morel, Aurora Christian, senior, forward.

Jake Nosek, Metea Valley, senior, forward.

James Parker, Metea Valley, senior, guard.

Dasean Patton, Oswego, junior, forward.

Bryce Salek, Yorkville, senior, forward.

CJ Savage, West Aurora, senior, guard.

Nathan Scarce, **Bartlett**, senior, guard.

Terrence Smith, West Aurora, junior, wing.

Jehvion Starwood, Oswego East, senior, guard.

Evan Stumm, Marmion, senior, guard.

Parker Violet, Kaneland, senior, forward.