

– Elgin Courier- News – State report card numbers tell just part of the story at Elgin-based **School District U-46**, superintendent says

Nov. 5, 2022

By Michael Danahey



U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders greets a student attending the school district's annual curriculum and career expo in October at the NOW Arena in Hoffman Estates. (School District U- / HANDOUT)

While accepting accountability for the district's State Report Card results, **U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders** said he believes there is more to assessing school performance than one test given in English only on limited subjects on one day in April.

"The way we measure is a little too narrow," Sanders said.

Last week, the State Board of Education released data collected for the report card on all public schools across Illinois.

Of the 53 schools in **U-46**, none were categorized as Exemplary (top 10%), 40 were rated Commendable (not in the top 10%, but no underperforming subgroups of students), 12 were listed as Targeted Support (one or more groups of students performing below the "all" group

results), and one was found in need of Comprehensive Support (the bottom 5% of Title 1 schools).

The data shows that 46.4% of U-46 students come from low-income homes, 56.4% are Hispanic and 39.1% are English language learners. According to U-46 officials, nearly 100 different languages are spoken by district families.

Sanders said the number of students from low-income homes is probably higher. With school lunches available for free to all students and supplies given out, many parents who would have registered to qualify for low-income benefits may not have done so, he said.

The report card doesn't take into account cultural or linguistic assessments nor does it account for social and emotional learning, he said.

The district launched its U-46 Rising Schools of Rigor and Equity efforts at five elementary schools during the 2021-22 school year. It added nine elementary schools in the 2022-23 year and intends to gradually roll out the approach to education at all its campuses.

The approach stresses team learning and problem solving, with teachers likened to coaches, Sanders said, as opposed to the "Stand and Deliver" approach with which parents and grandparents are probably familiar.

U-46 is working with a professor at the University of Illinois Chicago to measure the effectiveness of the new approach, he said.

The report card also noted the district's chronic absenteeism of 32.1% — higher than the statewide 29.8% rate. The state defines chronic absenteeism as "absences that total 10% or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with and without valid cause."

"We're continuing to discuss this as we're seeing this trend again this school year," Sanders said.

Some factors contributing to chronic absenteeism were related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sanders said. When students returned to school in January after winter break, and the Omicron COVID-19 wave was hitting and school attendance was 78%, he said.

"That's the lowest it's ever been," Sanders said.

During the pandemic, students became accustomed to teachers uploading work online for students to do at home, which affected habits and might account for some deciding to stay home rather than go to school, he said.

“We’re working on how to reemphasize the importance of in-person learning,” Sanders said.

On the positive side, the report card showed 88.2% of 9th graders were on track with their studies, which was higher than the statewide 86.6% figure, he said. The district’s four-year high school graduation rate was 85.5%, slightly lower than the statewide 87.3% rate, he said.

The report card showed that 11.9% of U-46 students who graduated last school year met were defined as Distinguished Scholars or College and Career Scholars, compared to 0.1% of graduates statewide.

Sanders posted a message to parents about the report card last week.

“A new shared vision for what ‘school’ looks like, I believe, will lead local communities to quickly discover that while state testing systems are important, there are more important measures of student and school success that must be considered as the current lens used to measure school accountability is broken,” he said.

To view Sanders’ full message, go to www.u-46.org/Page/9303. To view State Report Card results, go to www.illinoisreportcard.com.

Mike Danahey is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

– The Daily Herald –

Maine South blows out South Elgin to reach quarterfinals

Nov. 4, 2022

By Stan Goff

South Elgin's perfect season came to a close Friday night against a Maine South squad that's used to breaking teams' hearts in the postseason.

The Hawks visited 10-0 **South Elgin** with a deceiving 8-2 record and left with a 42-0 win and a berth in the quarterfinals of the 8A state playoffs.

Quarterback Ryan Leyden, who missed most of the regular season with an injury, was unstoppable in the first half, throwing touchdown passes on the Hawks' first two possessions and tossing four all told in the first half for a 28-0 lead.

"They were unbelievable. They played incredible on both sides of the ball," **Storm** coach Dragon Teonic said after his team failed again to advance past the second round of the playoffs. "There were a lot of things we could have done better but I don't want to take away from the way that team played tonight."

After the **Storm's** first possession ended in a punt, Maine South, with a strong wind at its back, marched 60 yards on a drive that was capped by Leyden's 9-yard scoring pass to Evan Agosto, who later added a 27-yard score.

The second Hawks' possession ended with a 38-yard screen pass that Michael Dellumo took to the end zone and the rout was on.

"Coach tells us to come out on fire and to put pressure on the other team," said Leyden, who finished with 228 yards and four scores before giving way to a pair of reserve quarterbacks on Friday. "We had the wind at our backs in the first quarter which helped us throw some deeper balls, plus our receiving corps is unbelievable. They have speed, talent and they're smart and they all play with confidence."

Despite the wind and at times rain, the Hawks' receivers made great catch after great catch on the night. Agosto had two TD catches, Maurice Densmore caught an 18-yarder from Leyden for a score, and Dellumo had five grabs for 74 yards and a score out of the backfield.

Maine South has a storied history of success in the postseason and its tough schedule seems to prepare the Hawks for long runs almost every season.

"Our first four games were all playoff teams and we went 2-2," Hawks coach David Inserra said. "It prepares us for the postseason and it paid off tonight."

The **Storm** had a difficult time against a Maine South team that has pitched back-to-back shutouts so far in the playoffs. Receiver Kyle Steinhofer had a touchdown called back on a holding penalty but did finish the game with six catches for 64 yards. Jordan Green led the team's ground attack with 34 yards on 7 carries.

Maine South (9-2) will play the winner of Saturday's game between Glenbrook South (9-1) and Glenbard West (9-1) next week.

— Elgin Courier- News —

FOOTBALL MAINE SOUTH 42, **SOUTH ELGIN** 0

South Elgin runs into buzz saw against Maine South in 8A second round

Nov. 5, 2022

By Paul Johnson, Beacon News



South Elgin's Michael Tringali takes a handoff from Jacob Sullivan against Maine South on Friday. H. Rick Bamman/Beacon-News



South Elgin's Mason Montgomery (8) breaks up a pass intended for Maine South's Maurice Densmore (14) during a Class 8A second-round playoff game on Friday. H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News

With mud covering his uniform, Michael Tringali played to the bitter end Friday night for **South Elgin**. He was beat up, bruised and battered, limping by the final whistle.

The 6-foot-2, 210-pound senior linebacker/running back had nothing left to give.

Afterward, Tringali stood on the track, wiping away tears as he received thanks from his teammates — something that **Storm** coach Dragan Teonic noted speaks volumes.

“You have to like seeing that as a coach, that there is that fight until the end,” Teonic said. “He sets the tone in the building. The kids look up to him. He’s truly a stud.”

Fourth-seeded **South Elgin** just truly ran into a buzz saw against 13th-seeded Maine South in the second round of the Class 8A playoffs, resulting in a 42-0 setback.

While the **Storm** (10-1) had a 10-game winning streak snapped by the Hawks (9-2), Tringali walked off the field for the final time as a high school player with his head held high.

“I’m just happy I got to have four years with my guys,” he said. “We played our hearts out. I was out there trying my best. We worked so hard in the weight room, in practice.

“We tried so hard. We gave everything we had.”

For Tringali, the message he gave to the underclassmen was the same he heard from last year’s graduating seniors after a 30-7 loss to Marist in the second round.

“I remember my seniors coming up to me telling me it’s my team now,” Tringali said. “We took over. We got this program right. I’m just so thankful I got to do it with this group.”

Maine South jumped on **South Elgin** early and often in Friday's first half. Ryan Leyden threw four touchdown passes to build a 28-0 lead at halftime.

"We kind of got bull-rushed in the first quarter," Teonic said. "We tried to get out of it, but to their credit, we couldn't do it. You have to give them credit. They did a great job."

Leyden hit Evan Agosto for TD passes of 9 and 27 yards. He added a 39-yard TD pass to Michael Dellumo and an 18-yard TD to Maurice Densmore right before the half.

Leyden finished completing 13 of 22 passes for 217 yards as the Hawks totaled 453 yards.

"Those kids are the toughest kids I've ever met," Tringali said. "I respect Maine South."

Offensively, **South Elgin** produced 139 yards and 10 first downs but couldn't string together sustained drives. Jordan Green ran for 38 yards and Ari Kravis added 30.

"We could have done a lot of things better, but at the end of the day, you don't want to say anything besides they did a great job because they did," Teonic said. "You don't want to take anything away from those kids."

"Watching the film, I thought they were solid. I thought we were solid. I did not see 42-0. I did not see that."

With the loss, **South Elgin** is still left looking to get past the second round of the playoffs.

"It's hard," Teonic said. "Class 8A is tough. To break into the third round, you have to have things go right. There's not a lot of places to hide."

"We did everything we could to put ourselves in the best position. It just didn't work out."

Still, even in defeat, Teonic was glad he had players like Tringali helping to push the program in the proper direction.

"He's unbelievable," Teonic said. "He's so good. I can't understand why this guy doesn't have a (college) offer."

"To me, he's big, he's fast, he's tough. He's a true football player."

Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.

– Chicago Tribune –

Prize fighter: Michael Tringali battles to the end as South Elgin runs into Maine South buzz saw in Class 8A second round. ‘The kids look up to him.’

Nov. 5, 2022

By Paul Johnson



South Elgin's Michael Tringali (9) takes a handoff from Jacob Sullivan (4) against Maine South during a Class 8A second-round playoff game on Friday, Oct. 4, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

With mud covering his uniform, [Michael Tringali](#) played to the bitter end Friday night for **South Elgin**. He was beat up, bruised and battered, limping by the final whistle.

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Maine South's Evan Agosto (12) gets past *South Elgin's* Michael Tringali (9) and Denver Davis (2) for a touchdown against Maine South during a Class 8A second-round playoff game on Friday, Oct. 4, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)



***South Elgin's* Jacob Sullivan (4) pitches the ball as Maine South's Sam Bartell (5) and Mike Taylor (42) defend during a Class 8A second-round playoff game on Friday, Oct. 4, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)**

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South Elgin's *Mason Montgomery (8) breaks up a pass intended for Maine South's Maurice Densmore (14) during a Class 8A second-round playoff game on Friday, Oct. 4, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)*

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South Elgin's Michael Tringali (9) comes in to help stop Maine South's Sean Mullan (18) as South Elgin's Christopher Griffin (28), Mason Montgomery (8) and Christian Tecza (45) converge during a Class 8A second-round playoff game on Friday, Oct. 4, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

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Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.

– Elgin Courier- News –

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

Nov. 6, 2022

By From Staff Reports

FRIDAY’S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

FOOTBALL

STATE PLAYOFFS

Second Round

CLASS 8A

Lincoln-Way East 17, Neuqua Valley 14

Maine South 42, South Elgin 0

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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