

– Chicago Tribune –

Elgin area braces for strong winds and sub-zero temps after first winter storm dumps holiday snow

Dec. 22, 2022

By Mike Danahey - Elgin Courier-News

Flakes began falling about 10 a.m. Thursday across the Elgin area, the start to the area's first snowstorm of the winter that brought with it gusty winds, an arctic air blast and dangerous wind chills.

The forecast prompted early closings for local schools, libraries and government offices, additional hours for the Elgin warming shelter and Elgin's Congregation Kneseth Israel decision to move its services online so congregants wouldn't have to brave the elements.

"The weather is certainly wintry, and in the interest of keeping everyone safe and warm, (our synagogue) will be closed until Tuesday, Dec. 27," Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein said in a social media post Thursday morning.

Local police cautioned people to avoid traveling over the next few days, if possible.

"The first significant snow tends to be more problematic as drivers get used to driving in hazardous weather conditions," Elgin police Sgt. Mike Martino said. "As is the case in any snow event, we recommend that if you have to drive, please leave early and give yourself extra time and use extra caution on the roadways. We want people to get to their destinations safely over the holidays."

Elgin's Public Works Department staff started preparing for the storm Monday, Assistant City Manager Karina Nava said.

“Crews have been anti-icing city streets Tuesday and Wednesday in advance of the weather,” Nava said.

Anti-icing involves putting down a liquid mixture of salt brine, calcium chloride and beet juice prior to a snowfall to help prevent snow and ice from bonding to pavement, she said.

Once the snow started falling, Elgin crews went into a plowing rotation that was to stay in effect for the duration of the storm.

Nava suggested residents check Elgin’s Facebook page for updates and offered cold-weather reminders, such as exercising extreme caution if going out is necessary.

“Snow routes are being enforced,” she said. “Any car parked along a designated snow route, which is marked with signs, will be ticketed and towed if left for 24 hours after two or more inches of snow have fallen.”

In advance of the storm, several government bodies announced plans for early closures.

While **School District U-46** kept its regular class schedule Thursday, the last day before winter break, Algonquin-based Community School District 300 opted to close its buildings at 1 p.m.

Elgin Community College also shut its locations and facilities early, closing at noon Thursday and remaining closed through Tuesday for winter recess.

The Gail Borden Public Library District had decided by Wednesday afternoon that it would lock the doors on its Elgin and South Elgin locations at 5 p.m. Thursday and to stay closed Friday. With plans already in place to not open Saturday and Sunday for the holidays, officials told patrons to not worry about returning items until next week as drop-off bins won’t be available.

Also closing early were the Fox Valley Public Library District branches, the Kane County Courthouse and Circuit Clerk's Office, and all Kane County nonemergency departments, all of which will remain closed until next week.

The temporary emergency warming shelter at First United Methodist Church, 216 E. Highland Ave., was to open at 7 p.m. Thursday and remain open through 7 a.m. Friday before opening again at 4 p.m. Friday and remaining open until 7 a.m. Monday.

The National Weather Center forecast predicted about 3 inches of snow could come with the storm as well as overnight wind gusts up to 30 mph, an overnight low temperature of 8-below and wind chills as low as 15 below.

More snow is possible Friday, with wind gusts climbing to 45 mph causing blizzard conditions. The daytime high Friday was expected to be 1-below and wind chills will feel like 35-below, the forecast said.

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

– Daily Herald –

Fans' guide to holiday wrestling tournaments

Dec. 20, 2022

By Mike Garofola

In advance of the second half of the wrestling season, there are a handful of tournaments both in and around the area that are 'must-see' viewing for fans of the sport.

Here's a quick glance at them:

67th Berman Holiday Classic at Palatine

When: Dec. 28-29

Skinny: The granddaddy of them all the Berman will have a new twist this season with day No. 1 an all-boys tournament, now renamed the Al Berman, after the man who ran the tournament for 30 years until his passing in 2010. The following day, the Sally Berman Holiday Classic, wife of Al, will feature 21 teams.

Competition will begin at 9 a.m. both days.

46th Ed Ewoldt Invite at WW South

When: Dec. 29

Skinny: Lincoln-Way East will look to repeat during this one-day event, however Lyons Township is the likely favorite in this 16-team field which includes Downers Grove North, Elgin, Hoffman Estates, Larkin, Waubonsie Valley, West Chicago, Wheeling and host WW South.

Competition will begin at 9 a.m., with finals scheduled approximately at 2 p.m.

Donald Flavin Invite at DeKalb

When: Dec. 29/30

Skinny: This two-day mega-tournament is a must-see for area fans with an eye-popping field that boasts six of the top eight 3A teams in the state, and the top two in 2A, Joliet Catholic Academy and Washington.

No. 1 Marist, followed by No. 3 Marmion Academy, No. 4 St. Charles East, No. 4 Lockport, No. 7 Yorkville and No. 8 Prospect gives this tournament enough star power to light up the sky.

There are several returning state champions here as well, beginning with No. 1 Ben Davino (St. Charles East) and Marmion Academy senior Jameson Garcia, who could meet at some point if both stay at 126 pounds.

Oklahoma State-bound Brayden Thompson (Lockport) is the No. 2 man in the country at 182, while senior and Illinois-bound Will Baysingar will lead a power-packed club from Prospect that will look to make their mark here.

51st Midlands

When: Dec. 28/29

Skinny: While this high profile tournament is a college tournament, fans will flock to the NOW Arena to see some of the best collegiate men and women, including several who have enjoyed memorable prep careers in the area.

Former Illinois State champions Eric Barone (Crystal Lake South), Trevor Chumbley (Marmion Academy), Michael Cullen (Cary-Grove), Markus Hartman (Barrington), Will Lewan (Montini Catholic), Patrick Schoenfelder (Antioch) and Matt Wroblewski (Prospect) have all competed at this marvelous tournament that moved back to Hoffman Estates after one year on the campus of Northwestern University.

Mikey Caliendo, state champion from Batavia, and currently No. 12 in the nation at 165 pounds at North Dakota State will likely be a part of an extraordinary field of a list of talent that will be released soon.

Both the men's and women's final session on Friday evening is set to begin at 6 p.m.

– Chicago Tribune –

Scouts? South Elgin's Sean Harvey gives opposition something to talk about against Fenton. 'It's all about experience.'

Dec. 21, 2022

By Paul Johnson - Aurora Beacon-News



South Elgin's Sean Harvey (11) and Elias Cole-Williams (4) deny Fenton's Nick Tinajero (23) during the second quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022.
(Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

South Elgin's Sean Harvey did his best to mentally prepare for this season, knowing that every situation he might encounter on the court would be a new experience.

Harvey is one of five seniors who sat behind a veteran starting lineup last season, so the lanky 6-foot-8 forward knew his life on the varsity was about to change.

"I knew it was something I couldn't wait to get used to," Harvey said. "I knew I had to get into that mindset early on. It's definitely an adjustment.

"Coach told us early in the season, you guys pretty much didn't see any playing time last year. You're going to get scouted for the first time."

Harvey gave the scouts something to talk about Tuesday night for the host **Storm** during a 61-60 Upstate Eight Conference loss to Fenton.

Putting together one of the best performances of his burgeoning career, Harvey ended up 9-for-16 from the field and scored a team-high 22 points for **South Elgin** (6-6, 5-1).

Harvey, who missed parts of the fourth quarter with leg cramps, shot 2 of 5 from 3-point range. He showed off an array of moves in the high post, working a midrange game and even getting into the lane for a dunk.

“We knew what they were going to give us so we had a game plan going into it,” Harvey said. “I knew I was going to get some looks. I just had to make sure I stepped up and capitalized on them.”

South Elgin trailed 53-44 going into the fourth quarter.

The **Storm** opened the fourth on an 11-0 run, however, clamping down on defense to the point that Fenton (9-3, 6-0) was held scoreless until the 2:45 mark as **South Elgin** took a 55-53 lead.



South Elgin's Derek Clark (20) pulls down a rebound against Fenton during the second quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

Harvey started the rally with a layup. Shailen Shukti followed with a 3-pointer and Elias Cole-Williams hit a pair of free throws. Then the defense started to pay off.

After forcing only two turnovers the first three quarters, the **Storm** grabbed a 55-53 lead as Victor Sison and Shukti scored on consecutive layups off steals. Sisson finished with 16 points.

“I thought we struggled early with on-ball defense,” **South Elgin coach Philip Church** said. “We got beat to the basket pretty easily. The guys stepped up in the second half, took the challenge and did a better job.”

Harvey forced a 57-57 tie on a jumper from the wing with 1:04 left. Fenton responded with four points in the final minute to push the lead to 61-57.



South Elgin's Shailen Shukti (0) dribbles up the court against Fenton during the fourth quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

[Mason Montgomery](#) hit a 3-pointer with two seconds left to cut the deficit to one, but the Storm were out of timeouts and time expired.

“That is the learning piece with those guys,” Church said. “We can’t just be bailed out by a timeout like you did in a JV game or a sophomore game a few years ago. It doesn’t quite work like that anymore.”

That’s what Harvey took out of the tough loss.

“It’s all about experience, really,” Harvey said. “It’s not about that last possession. It’s about finding different possessions every quarter.



South Elgin's Sean Harvey (11) puts up a shot over Fenton's Alejandro Diaz (22) during the third quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

“Coach always says win by two possessions every quarter and that’s a double-digit win. We’ll look at some film and find where we can get those possessions.”

South Elgin plays Fremd on Thursday, weather permitting, before heading next week to the Hinkle Holiday Classic at Jacobs.

Harvey hopes the **Storm** can find some answers.

“It’s going to be a lot of stuff, just seeing what did we prepare for, did we execute and what can we do next time?” Harvey said. “A lot of that is applying ourselves in practice and in game prep.

“We’re not used to it yet. Once we adjust to this new high-level game we’ll be a lot more prepared.”

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

– Chicago Tribune –

Rick Armstrong’s Aurora, Elgin, Naperville boys basketball rankings and player of the week for Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022.

Dec. 21, 2022

By Rick Armstrong - Aurora Beacon-News

Top 10

With records through Monday and previous ranking in parentheses.

1. Benet 11-0 (1)

Are Redwings headed to showdown with Simeon in Pontiac Tournament finale?

2. Oswego East 10-2 (2)

Tough loss to Curie followed by more tests at Hinsdale Central.

3. Yorkville 9-2 (3)

Good competition awaits surprising Foxes in Jack Tosh tourney at York.

4. West Aurora 8-3 (4)

Late night opener Dec. 28 vs. host Pontiac follows 10-day break.

5. Neuqua Valley 9-2 (5)

[Luke Kinkade-led Wildcats](#) have won seven straight.

6. Metea Valley 5-4 (6)

Another tough test awaits Mustangs on Thursday at Geneva (7-3).

7. Bartlett 9-2 (8)

Sharpshooter [Kelton McEwen](#) helps Hawks go 5-0 in Upstate Eight Conference.

8. Kaneland 10-1 (9)

The Knights, winners of nine straight, are seeded third in Plano tourney.

9. Burlington Central 7-2 (NR)

[Drew Scharnowski](#) is back to boost Rockets in defense of Plano tourney title.

10. Aurora Christian 11-2 (10)

Eagles are seeded second for small schools at Bloomington-Normal tourney.

Player of the Week

Junior guard Luke Kinkade averages 23 points, seven rebounds, three assists in three wins for Neuqua Valley, including a 44-point effort against Yorkville Christian that ranks second on the program's single-game scoring list behind John Poulakidas' 49 in 2020.

– Chicago Tribune –

Blakely's back: After taking it slowly, Jakob Blakely returns from knee injury to boost Larkin past Streamwood. 'It all paid off.'

Dec. 22, 2022

By Paul Johnson - Aurora Beacon-News



Larkin's Jakob Blakely (10) runs the show against Streamwood during the third quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

Larkin's Jakob Blakely entered the summer as one of the top junior guards in Illinois.

And then came the injury.

Over the past few months, as the 6-foot Blakely worked his way through the arduous rehabilitation process, moments of doubt understandably crept into his mind.

“It was really discouraging,” Blakley said. “You’re really limited as to what you can do. Part of you kind of thinks that you won’t be back.

“You keep on working every day, take it day-by-day, baby steps, and you end up back on the court.”



Larkin's Jakob Blakley (10) puts up a shot against Streamwood during the first quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

That moment came Wednesday night for Blakley. He led all scorers with 18 points and added four steals for the **Royals** in a 70-29 Upstate Eight Conference win over **Streamwood**.

Although **Larkin coach Deryn Carter** said Blakely had been cleared for a couple of weeks, the **Royals** played it slow in what is a critical season for Blakley's college future.

Darnell Wilder added 16 points for **Larkin** (4-6, 3-3). Genaud Phillips led **Streamwood** (0-11, 0-6) with nine points.

"It felt great to be out there and give my team a win, especially with the energy I brought," Blakely said. "It definitely paid off, all the physical therapy hours, the weightlifting, all the basketball work.

"It all paid off. I was happy to be back out there to show that it paid off."

Without Blakely, **Larkin** was up and down with a brand-new lineup.

Having him back, however, brought it all together in one of the most complete performances of the season for the **Royals**, whose stifling defense forced 25 turnovers.



Larkin's Tramare Reed (3) and **Streamwood's Josh Wilder (34)** fight for a rebound during the third quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

“He brings a lot of things to the table,” Carter said of Blakely. “But there were a lot of other things that we brought to the table that he alone didn’t do.

“He brought out the spirit of the team, the enthusiasm of the team. He’s a leader for a reason. Those other guys brought it, too. He was the leader of that, and that’s what we expected out of him.”

Carter was always there as Blakley slowly worked his way back.

“Just because of the athlete he is, he was actually cleared for a few weeks,” Carter said. “We slow played it, and rightfully so. He’s got a lot riding on it. That’s an expensive knee.

“We’re excited because now that he’s back, he’s back.”



Streamwood's Genaud Phillips (15) tries to stop Larkin's Jasavion Rogers-Sowers (2) during the third quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022.
(Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

Blakley scored his first basket at the 2:46 mark of the first quarter, fittingly on a layup after a steal. He then hit an 18-footer from the wing and converted a driving layup.

All of those baskets came during a 16-3 burst that opened a 20-12 lead early in the second quarter.

Blakley added seven more points in the second quarter as **Larkin** took a 38-19 lead into halftime. He scored five more points in the third quarter before sitting down.

“I knew he was going to be out of shape,” **Streamwood coach Quentin Ruff** said of Blakely. “I knew he was going to be rusty. But he still has an effect on the game, very much.

“It was good to see him out there.”



Larkin's Jakob Blakley (10) drives past **Streamwood's Francis Sagadraca (5)** during the third quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

It was a special night for Ruff, **a 2013 Larkin graduate** who went up against his former coach for the first time.

“This was one for the books,” Ruff said. “Something I’ll remember regardless of the scoreboard.”

Now that Blakley is back and his injury is behind him, Carter believes it’s just another chapter in his journey.

“Not to speak for him, but in a weird way, when it’s all said and done, it’s going to be a road he’s going to say was a big piece of where he’s going to end up,” Carter said. “Whether it was a little bit of a reset, sitting on the sidelines, watching things, he approached it the right way.

“In the big picture, it’s going to be a positive.”

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

– Chicago Tribune – Basketball scores for Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

Dec. 22, 2022

By From Staff Reports - Aurora Beacon-News

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

TUESDAY’S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bartlett 76, Glenbard South 74 (OT)

Fenton 61, **South Elgin** 60

Glenbrook South 62, Lake Forest 57

Lake Forest (4-5): Asa Thomas 26 points. Tommie Aberle 15 points.

Kaneland 49, Plano 38

Kaneland (11-1, 5-0 Interstate Eight): Troyer Carlson 19 points. Johnny Spallasso 9 points.

Plano (2-10, 1-4): Bernard Clark, A.J. Johnson 10 points.

Lakes 53, Cary-Grove 51

Lakes (9-4): Brock Marino 16 points.

Lisle 56, Aurora Central Catholic 41

Marian Central Catholic 65, Warren 63

Riverside-Brookfield 78, St. Edward 49

Sandwich 55, LaSalle-Peru 49 (2 OT)

Seneca 57, Newark 39

Newark (6-4): Jake Kruser 12 points, 5 steals.

West Chicago 56, Elgin 28

MESA (Ariz.) CHALLENGE

Benet 72, Pinnacle (Ariz.) 38

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Batavia 57, Burlington Central 49

Batavia (8-3): Brooke Carlson 25 points. Kylee Gehrt 10 points.

Burlington Central (7-4): Page Erickson 18 points, 6 rebounds. Samantha Origel 12 points.

Benet 47, York 37

Benet (9-2): Lenée Beaumont 20 points.

East Aurora 53, Glenbard East 38

Glenbard South 51, **Bartlett** 29

Joliet West 59, Metea Valley 43

Lake Zurich 48, Lake Forest 45 (OT)

Larkin 63, **Streamwood** 49

Prairie Central 42, Newark 30

Rockford Lutheran 63, Yorkville Christian 31

South Elgin 57, Fenton 46

South Elgin (5-8, 4-3 Upstate Eight): Raina Yang 22 points. Chloe Kmiec 18 points.

West Chicago 38, **Elgin** 34

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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

– Daily Herald – CL South, St. Edward coaches enjoy unique opportunity

Dec. 22, 2022

By Craig Brueske

Please excuse Crystal Lake South boys basketball coach Matt LePage if he forgets what day it is over the next week or so.

LePage will be plenty busy watching his freshman daughter, Laken, play for the Gators' girls varsity basketball team in the Northern Illinois Holiday Classic at Johnsburg (through Dec. 22), while coaching his senior son, Cooper, as the Gators compete in the Hinkle Holiday Tournament (Dec. 27-30) at Jacobs.

Please excuse Crystal Lake South boys basketball coach Matt LePage if he forgets what day it is over the next week or so.

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Dundee-Crown plays host to its 39th annual Charger-Komaromy Classic (Dec. 26-29), which includes Huntley (11-1), Hampshire, **South Elgin**, and St. Charles North. Huntley opens against Buffalo Grove at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 26, while the North Stars face Maine West at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 26. **South Elgin** faces Maine South at 10 a.m. on Dec. 26, while Hampshire plays Lake Park afterward at 11:30 a.m.

Batavia and Geneva are headed to the Fremd Invite at Morton Community College (Dec. 27-30), with the Bulldogs squaring off against Lincoln-Way West at 5 p.m. on Dec. 27, while the Vikings face Marist earlier that day at 12:15 p.m.

"We really look forward to Christmas basketball," said Geneva coach Sarah Meadows. "There's great talent at this tournament, and it's a great challenge for us."

On the boys side, **Elgin** and Jacobs will stay home for the holidays as tournament hosts.

Aurora Christian heads to Bloomington for the State Farm Classic (Dec. 27-30); Aurora Central Catholic, **Elgin**, Elgin Academy, and Westminster Christian play at Elgin (Dec. 27-30); **Bartlett**, Cary-Grove, **Larkin**, and **Streamwood** join CLSouth at Jacobs (Dec. 27-30).

Geneva, Dundee-Crown, and Huntley play in the Chuck Dayton Tournament at DeKalb (Dec. 27-30).

"Playing at DeKalb allows us to play different teams and styles," said Geneva coach Scott Hennig. "We won't play any teams from the DuKane Conference.

"It's a great tournament, and the DeKalb athletic department runs a first-class event."

Batavia plays in the Jack Tosh Invite at York (Dec. 26-30); Harvest Christian is in the EC Nichols Tournament at Marengo (Dec. 22-23, 27-28); Hampshire competes in the Wheeling Tournament (Dec. 27-30); and St. Charles East opens against H-F on Friday at the Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic (Dec. 23, 26-28).

"We see teams we don't normally see," said Saints coach Patrick Woods. "We kind of treat it like a mini-state tournament.

"One of the best teams I had here that made it to the sectional finals -- we went 0-4 in that holiday tournament. I don't think people realize that but it just got us better."

Burlington Central, Marmion, and Kaneland drew the top 3 seeds at the 59th annual Plano Christmas Classic (Dec. 27-30).

"The atmosphere at Plano is second to none," said Rockets coach Brett Porto. "If you're fortunate to advance throughout the tournament, the crowds fill up the bleachers like nowhere else around.

"The players love to be in that environment, and there are few places that can provide that nowadays."

St. Charles North and West Aurora head to the 91st Pontiac Holiday Tournament (Dec. 28-30).

"I like everything about that tournament," said North Stars coach Tom Poulin, whose team opens against top-seeded Simeon at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 28. "It's the first one ever in America. They talk about having had to take five years off for World Wars.

"The town shuts down. The most important thing in the world is the tournament that week. They treat you like pros. They launder your uniforms, pay for your meals, pay for your hotels, and pay for your gas. You don't pay a dime. They just take care of you."

The competition is second to none, as well.

"You're going to run into Simeon, Curie, New Trier, Benet, OPRF, (Peoria) Manual, Bloom -- it's just amazing," said Poulin. "I love it."

– Chicago Tribune –

Rick Armstrong's Aurora and Elgin top 10 boys sports stories of the year for 2022

Dec. 23, 2022

By Rick Armstrong

Not one but two hard-throwing pitchers from the same high school baseball team selected in the MLB draft and wooed by millions in signing bonuses?

Unprecedented.

A basketball recruit choosing one of America's blue blood programs?

Not unprecedented but still rare.

The best choice for No. 1?

Flip a coin.

Here are the Aurora and Elgin area's top 10 stories of the year in boys sports:

10. Breakthrough performance on the mat

That didn't take long. Powered by individual champion [Jackson Gillen](#) (170 pounds) and runner-up [Isaac Bourge](#) (120), Yorkville Christian [won the Class 1A dual meet state title](#) in the wrestling program's second season. The school's first state trophy, it was matched only a few weeks later by the basketball team.

9. Five wrestlers reach state podium's top step

Four area wrestlers joined Gillen in capturing individual state titles. [Jameson Garcia](#), a junior from Marmion who has since committed to Harvard, won the Class 3A title at 113. St. Charles East sophomore [Ben Davino](#) won the Class 3A championship at 120 and added a national freestyle title over the summer. In Class 2A, Aurora Christian seniors [Joe Fernau](#) (126) and [Braden Stauffenberg](#) (152) also won championships.

8. Batavia wins state title in track

Batavia coach [Dennis Piron](#) added to a legacy that includes two state football titles when his track team [won the Class 3A championship](#). Wins from [Jalen Buckley](#) in the triple jump and the 1,600 relay of [Vincie Solano](#), [Jake Hohmann](#), [Drew Gerke](#) and [Jonah Fallon](#) led the way.

7. Yorkville Christian wins state in basketball

Hardened [by a challenging schedule](#) filled with quality Class 3A and 4A opponents, Yorkville Christian was more than prepared for a thrilling run to [the Class 1A state championship](#). The Mustangs were led by 6-foot-6 star [Jaden Schutt](#), the Beacon-News/Courier-News' [player of the year](#). Schutt, a Duke recruit, averaged 27 points. He was supported by [K.J. Vasser](#) averaging 16.4 points, [Tyler Burrows](#) at 11.1 and [David Douglas Jr.](#) at 10.2.

6. Oswego East basketball makes historic run

With senior forward [Patrick Robinson](#) and junior forward [Mekhi Lowery](#) leading the way, Oswego East finished 33-2 and [set the school single-season record](#) for wins [before earning the](#)

[program's](#) third regional title. The Wolves fell short of the program's first sectional title [with a 52-51 loss to Bolingbrook](#).



Larkin's Damari Wheeler-Thomas (10) sails past Rockford East's Latrell Kyles (23) in the Class 4A Huntley Sectional semifinals on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

5. Larkin basketball's record-setting season

Senior guard [Damari Wheeler-Thomas](#), a North Dakota State recruit, led **Larkin** to a 30-4 record and [the program's single-season record](#) for wins. The **Royals** came up [one win short of reaching](#) state for only the second time, losing in a Class 4A supersectional [to eventual state champion Glenbard West](#).

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

– Daily Herald –

Saunders, Hampshire block Lake Park

Dec. 26, 2022

By Dave Hess

Clutch free throws and a critical blocked shot.

Those ingredients provided a hard fought 47-45 win for Hampshire over Lake Park in first round action of the Dundee-Crown High School 39th annual Komaromy Classic Monday.

The Whip-Purs (10-4) will play Maine South in quarterfinal action at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Lake Park (8-5}, in the consolation bracket, will tangle with South Elgin at 11 a.m.

Nursing a slim 41-39 lead, Whitney Thompson calmly sank 4 free throws to give the Whip-Purs a 45-39 advantage.

Thompson, with a pair of 3-pointers, led the winners with 12 points.

“Coach (Eric Samuelson) always talks about closing out games,” said Thompson. “It was a good win against a quality team. We played with a lot of energy and rebounded.”

Gabriella Burgess followed with a 3 to pull the Lancers (8-5) within 45-42 with 45 seconds remaining.

Burgess attempted a 3-pointer with 15 seconds left to tie the game, but Hampshire’s Lia Saunders blocked the shot.

“I didn’t even know I blocked the shot,” said Saunders. “Coach always talk about defense translating to offense.”

Saunders backed up Thompson with 9 points.

Despite a tough first half, Hampshire trailed only 17-16 at intermission. The Whips made only 6-of-25 from the floor for 24% and were 2-of-10 from 3-point range.

Hampshire, which committed 10 turnovers, missed 8 layups during the first 16 minutes.

Scoring 20 points in the fourth quarter, Hampshire was 7-of-14 from the field and 4-of-10 from beyond the arc in the second half. Hampshire, which didn’t shoot a free throw in the first half, made 14-of-17 in the second half and 12-of-15 in the fourth quarter.

“We shot the ball much better in the second half,” said Samuelson. “This is a game we lose last year. We played with a lot of heart and were up to the challenge.”

Grace Cord led Lake Park with 16 points and 6 rebounds while Michela Barbanette scored 11 points,

“The free-throw line was the game,” said Lake Park coach Brian Rupp. “They shoot 14-of-17 and we shoot 9-of-19. We just need to bounce back against South Elgin.”

- Elgin Courier News -

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

Dec. 23, 2022

By From Staff Reports

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Andrew 32, Evergreen Park 26

Deerfield 69, Highland Park 44

Deerfield (11-2, 5-0 Central Suburban North): Olivia Kerndt 19 points. Lexi Kerstein 18 points.

Dundee-Crown 54, Jacobs 33

East Aurora 38, Larkin 32

Geneva 62, Batavia 40

Geneva (8-2, 4-0 DuKane): Lauren Slagle 21 points. Leah Palmer 12 points. Cassidy Arni 11 points.

Batavia (7-3, 2-2): Brooke Carlson 12 points.

Glenbard South 63, Elgin 25

Elgin (4-7): Izzie Castro 10 points.

Grayslake Central 44, Lakes 37

Hampshire 46, McHenry 21

Hampshire (6-4, 4-1 Fox Valley): Whitney Thompson 17 points.

Kenwood 77, Morgan Park 49

Lake Forest 72, St. Viator 38

Lake Forest (10-2): Sarah Constantine 21 points. Rachel Kaus 21 points, 13 rebounds, 7 assists. Bella Ranallo 19 points, 7 rebounds, 5 steals.

Lake Zurich 53, Warren 28

Libertyville 54, Waukegan 21

Libertyville (11-2, 5-0 North Suburban): Sophia Swanson 11 points.

Plainfield North 55, Oswego East 35

St. Charles North 67, St. Charles East 48

St. Charles North (8-3, 3-1 DuKane): Alyssa Hughes 21 points. Reagan Sipla 14 points. Katrina Stack, Laney Stark 12 points.

St. Laurence 48, Stagg 47

St. Laurence (7-4): Clare Allison 10 points.

Sandwich 52, Plano 26

South Elgin 46, West Chicago 34

South Elgin (4-7, 3-3 Upstate Eight): Chloe Kmiec 17 points. Caitlyn Tolentino 13 points.

Stevenson 42, Mundelein 24

Stevenson (7-5, 3-2 North Suburban): Emory Klatt 25 points.

Vernon Hills 73, Maine East 29

Vernon Hills (10-3, 4-1 Central Suburban North): Ava Barszcz 24 points. Grace Koepke 12 points.

Westmont 62, Chicago Christian 60

Yorkville 56, Oswego 25

Yorkville (8-4, 3-2 Southwest Prairie West): Alex Stewart 14 points.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aurora Christian 67, Mooseheart 31

East Aurora 55, Larkin 50

Glenbard South 68, Elgin 39

Grayslake Central 52, Johnsburg 38

Grayslake Central (7-1): Dennis Estepp 10 points. Kai Taylor 9 points.

Hyde Park 71, Morgan Park 23

IMSA 64, Indian Creek 40

Rochelle Zell 58, Intrinsic 34

Sandburg 66, Southland Prep 34

Sandburg (3-7): Paulius Mizeras 14 points, 7 rebounds.

South Elgin 47, West Chicago 33

Stevenson 48, Lake Forest 33

Stevenson (7-1, 3-0 North Suburban): Michael Maloney 10 points, 6 rebounds. Brandon Sorokin 10 points. Christian Uremovich 9 points, 5 rebounds. Aidan Bardic 9 points.

Lake Forest (3-4, 1-2): Asa Thomas, Tommie Aberle 9 points.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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