

– Daily Herald –

New Elgin skatepark brings the streets indoors

Dec. 29, 2022

By Rick West

A new skatepark in Elgin soon will bring the streets indoors for local skaters.

Ian Nathan Jr. of Bartlett, with help from his dad Ian Sr., is opening Syndicate Skatepark in a long-vacant 13,500-square-foot space at the McLean Plaza Shopping Center at 820 S. McLean Boulevard.

"There's such a need for this here and everyone I've spoken to is really excited about it," said the 21-year-old Nathan Jr.

Evidence of that excitement can be seen on TikTok, where a post Nathan Jr. made showing a progression of the site from start to late November went viral and now has nearly 3 million views.

He said at the time he only had a couple hundred of followers. The **South Elgin High School graduate** now has more than 57,000.

"The support has been crazy," he said, adding that a number of local skaters have come by to help him work on the park for free.

"They just want to have a place to skate," said Nathan Jr. "And with the weather, there's a lot of pressure to get this place open."

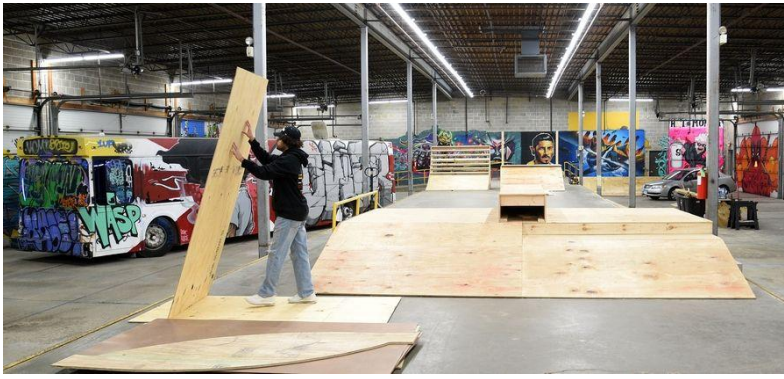
The skate park definitely fills a niche, Nathan Jr. said, noting the next closest indoor facilities are in Elk Grove Village and DeKalb.

The street-style skatepark is hidden in the enclosed loading dock behind what was most recently a Sara Lee Bakery store about nine years ago. The store space will serve as a lobby where they'll sell some merchandise, have a place to lounge and maybe host pop-up businesses.

Once you open the door to the loading dock, you're transported to an urban oasis for skaters.



South Elgin High School graduate Ian Nathan Jr., 21, is opening an indoor skate park in Elgin that includes a city bus inside where people can hang out and watch TV. - Rick West | Staff Photographer



Ian Nathan Jr., with help from his dad, is opening an indoor skate park in a 13,500-square-foot vacant space at the McLean Plaza Shopping Center in Elgin. The skating area was a loading dock and storage area for a former Sara Lee Bakery store. Rick West | Staff Photographer



Ian Nathan Jr. works on a ramp at his soon-to-open Syndicate Skate Park in Elgin. Graffiti artists from throughout the region painted the walls giving the park an urban vibe. Rick West | Staff Photographer

Graffiti murals surround the skating area on all the walls and the 10 garage bay doors, reinforcing the street vibe. And nothing says urban street like a city bus, which the park also

has. LED lighting gives the interior of the bus a blue glow where skaters can hang out and relax and watch TV.

"I just think from any skatepark I've ever seen, this place is different," Nathan Jr. said.

"There's no indoor parks that look like this."

Nathan Jr. said they'll have all the essentials in the 13,000-square-foot skating space, including ledges, a fun box, a street spine, a pyramid with a hip, a eurogap, various sizes of quarter and bank ramps and multiple types of rails.

"We're building it out in phases, so we'll add some more stuff as we go," he said. "We'll see what the people want in here."

Nathan Jr. said he hopes to open the park soon. They're waiting for a few supplies in order to finish the ramps.

"Once we get those, I could have it ready in a day," he said.

Father and son have been working together on projects for years. Nathan Sr. spent 10 years working for the U.S. Secret Service before leaving to spend more time with his family. Since then, he's opened businesses with the help of his son that included a gym and a couple of paintball centers.

"I'm an entrepreneur, and he's always been right on my hip with everything," Nathan Sr. said.

That spirit definitely rubbed off on Nathan Jr., who has spent his post-high school years organizing events, such as vintage clothing sales and car shows with hundreds of entrants.

"He's really developed that mindset in me, so with the other stuff we were doing, the skatepark was just a natural progression," Nathan Jr. said. "I've been skating most of my life, it's what I love. And I knew Elgin was the right place with how creative and diverse it is."

– Daily Herald –

Gibson sparks Grayslake Central over Bartlett

Dec. 28, 2002

By Dave Hess

Jake Gibson saved his best effort for the fourth quarter.

Gibson scored 8 of his 15 points during the final 8 minutes of the game to lead Grayslake Central past **Bartlett** 69-65 in quarterfinal action of the Hinkle Holiday Classic Wednesday night at Jacobs High School in Algonquin.

Gibson added 8 rebounds and 3 blocked shots for the Rams (11-1), winners of 11 straight. The Rams advance to the semifinals to play Barrington Thursday at 6 p.m. The Hawks play in a consolation game at 3 p.m.

With the score tied at 55 after three quarters, Grayslake started the fourth quarter on an 8-0 run. Gibson scored 6 of the 8 points during the run. The Rams led 63-55 with 5:36 left in the game.

"The guys did a great job of looking for me," said Gibson. "I got the ball in great position to score."

Grayslake Central coach Brian Centella praised Gibson.

"We were able to spread out our shooters in the fourth quarter," said Centella. "Jake really responded with a great quarter."

The **Hawks** got to within 67-65 on a layup by Martin McCarthy with 42 seconds but couldn't get any closer.

Dennis Estepp, who missed six minutes in the second half with a cramp in his calf, scored all 19 of his points during the first three quarters.

"I drank a lot of water and knew I was going to come back in," said Estepp. "We have 10 seniors on this team and most of us have played together since sixth grade feeder."

Sam Cooper added 11 for the Rams.

"We have so much depth on this team," said Centella. "That separates us from a lot of teams. We have kids who don't play a lot who are good players."

Kelton McEwen led **Bartlett** (11-3) with 22 points while Nathan Searce added 21.

"We had our chances," said **Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith**. "It was a physical game."

– Daily Herald –

CL South's quick start too much for Larkin

Dec. 28, 2022

Dave Hess



*Crystal Lake South's Cam Miller drives to the basket between **Larkin's Adrian York and Jack Casebeer** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*



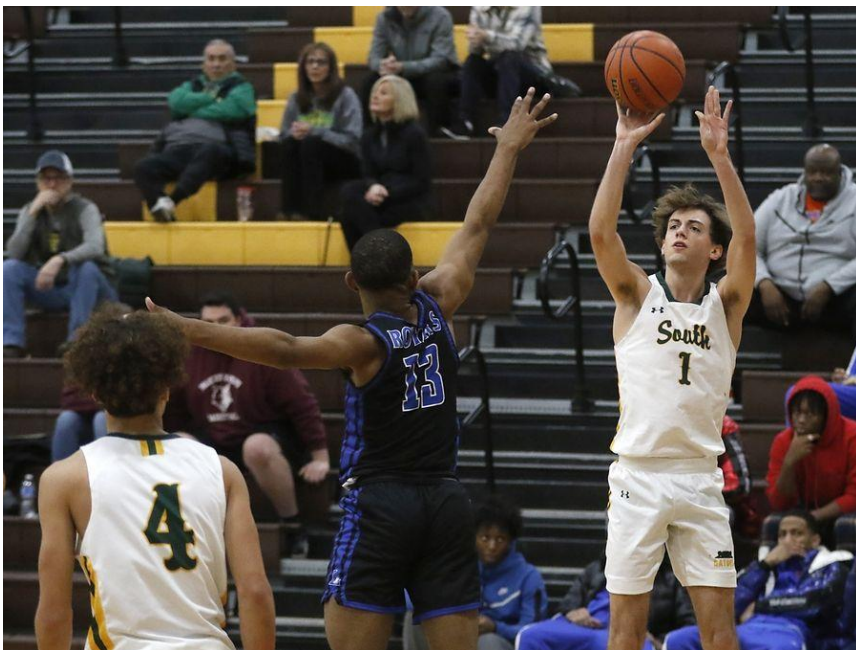
*Crystal Lake South's Cam Miller drives to the baseline against **Larkin's Adrian York** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*



Crystal Lake South's Brady Schroeder shoots the ball in front of Larkin's Armani Ivy during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com



Crystal Lake South's Anthony Demirov protects the ball as he drives to the basket between Larkin's Damani Cannon and Jasavion Sowers during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com



Crystal Lake South's Zachary Peltz shoots a three-pointer over Larkin's Parnell Wilder during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com



*Crystal Lake South's James Carlson drives to the basket against **Larkin's Andre Jones** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*



*Crystal Lake South's Cam Miller tries to block the shot of **Larkin's Darnell Wilder** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*



*Crystal Lake South's Cooper LePage drives to the basket against **Larkin's Darnell Wilder, Joshua Hibbett and Jack Casebeer** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*



*Crystal Lake South's Cooper LePage drives to the basket between **Larkin's Adrian York and Joshua Hibbett** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*



*CLS 10 drives the lane against **Larkin's Andre Jones** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*



*Crystal Lake South's Zachary Peltz drives to the basket against **Larkin's Andre Jones** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*



*Crystal Lake South's Zachary Peltz tries to fake out **Larkin's Joshua Hibbett** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*



*Crystal Lake South's Cooper LePage drives to the basket against **Larkin's Jasavion Sowers and Joshua Hibbett** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*



*Crystal Lake South's Anthony Demirov is fouled by **Larkin's Joshua Hibbett** during a Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com*

Crystal Lake South came out so hard and fast that it pretty much decided the outcome against **Larkin** in the first 3:08.

Zach Peltz scored on an alley-oop play, Cameron Miller drove for a layup, then Peltz and Aj Demirov hit 3-pointers, with Demirov's coming after several offensive rebounds.

It was a dizzying start. The Gators had a word for it.

"It's so electric," Peltz said. "Me and my brothers out there just hooping and getting so hyped. It's so fun. I love it."

The Gators rolled to a 57-35 victory over **Larkin** in their quarterfinal game at Jacobs' Hinkle Holiday Classic on Wednesday. South (11-3) will meet Hoffman Estates (8-4) at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the second semifinal.

"That's electric. That really gets us going," Miller said. "The energy's good and a lot of momentum going out there. We knew they were going to press, we had to come out with a fire and that's what we did."

South jumped ahead 12-0 before the **Royals** (5-6) got on the scoreboard. The Gators led 23-6 after the first quarter.

"We didn't put up much of a fight," **Larkin coach Deryn Carter** said. "They had one possession early where they missed four shots and then hit a 3. We're not a very good basketball team, but if you give us five shots a possession, we'll probably make one."

"We just weren't tough enough, we weren't anything enough today. Hat's off to them, they were playing well. They were feeling good about themselves, as they should have been."

South outrebounded the **Royals** 43-27 and grabbed 16 offensive boards. Demirov scored 11 of his game-high 23 points in the third quarter, Peltz finished with 14. Demirov and Miller each grabbed eight rebounds.

"Our guys were ready to play," Gators coach Matt LePage said. "We had a really good walk-through and felt good about our prep. With the experienced group we have these one-day scenarios they're good."

"Zach got us off to a great start. We thought they were going to be kind of swarmy on our drives, so we wanted to kick for 3s. Zach made one, Cam made one, then AJ got rolling."

Joshua Hibbett and Armani Ivy led **Larkin** with six points each.

"Just go in and watch film and get ready for the next game," Miller said. "We know what we have to do to get to the 'ship. (Hoffman Estates) is a good team, we have to come out with that same fire we came out with this game."