

Press Clippings for 8/31/2022

---The Examiner---

Aug. 24, 2022

District U-46 approves new DUEA union contract

By: Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved, a three-year contract with the District U-46 Educational Assistants (DUEA) with a 5.4 percent pay increase at its meeting on Monday, Aug. 22.

The union that represents paraprofessionals, piano accompanists and sign language interpreters had been operating under a one-year contract extension to a 2017-2021 agreement with this new contract running from 2022 to 2025. That one-year extension, approved last August, included a 6.1 percent pay increase.

“The original demand to bargain was received on March 5, 2021. And we negotiated a one-year agreement with DUEA on Aug. 3 of 2021,” said Trisha Olson, chief legal officer. “Afterwards, we continued to bargain in earnest throughout the remainder of 2021. There were some long days, and we did a great job of working together throughout all of it including through the spring and summer of 2022.”

Olson said this new contract received 97 percent approval when voted on by the union on Aug. 11.

Starting wages will increase across the board with a 5.4 percent increase to the base salary for paraprofessional in Fiscal Year 2023, a 4 percent increase in FY 2024 and an increase based on the Consumer Price Index, the government’s price inflation calculation, with a floor of 2.75 percent and ceiling of 5 percent.

The wage increases for sign language interpreters and accompanists is 3 percent across the board each year. The new contract has yet to be posted on the district’s website nor is it available on the board’s public documents page.

---The Examiner---

Aug. 24, 2022

Special Olympics athletes recognized by U-46 board

By: Seth Hancock

Three athletes from the **School District U-46 Blue Stars** took home gold at the Illinois Special Olympics' summer games.

The athletes were recognized by the Board of Education at its meeting on Monday, Aug. 22. The athletes competed in June at the games hosted in Bloomington-Normal, and 13 **Blue Stars** athletes earned a spot at the state competition from regionals.

Brooke McGrath, the Blue Stars' coach and an instructional special education teacher leader for the district, said for a press release: "Our **U-46 Blue Stars** are some of the hardest working athletes I have ever met. I couldn't be more proud of our athletes this track and field season. They have overcome a few hurdles these past several years, but they sure did persevere and give it their all."

Kaylie Behrens, who recently completed her senior year at **Bartlett High School** and is now in **U-46's Secondary Work Experience Program (SWEP)**, won the 50-meter run with a time of 12.03 seconds.

Evelyn Diem, a sophomore at **Elgin High School**, won the standing long jump with 1.13 meters and Charles Hall, an eighth grader at South Elgin's **Kenyon Woods Middle School**, won the 50-meter assisted race with a time of 22.66 seconds.

The other **Blue Stars** athletes to compete at the state games were Saul Castaneda (100-meter run), Braden Graves (athletics softball throw, 100-meter run), John Joseph (50-meter run, athletic softball throw), Vincent Leal (100-meter walk, athletics softball throw), Paul Mladonicky (athletics standing long jump), Syed Ahrar Raza (100-meter freestyle swim, 50-meter freestyle swim), Nathan Ruff (50-meter breaststroke swim), Michael Rzucidlo (100-meter run), Nathan Scholl (50-meter run) and Marshall Wilson (100-meter run, athletics softball throw).

"We are the most fortunate coaches and have the best athletes," McGrath said at the meeting. "I'm sure every coach feels that way, but we really have the best athletes and are very fortunate to have all our Blue Star athletes. They did incredibly at state and at regionals. We are very blessed and very proud of you."

---The Examiner---

Aug. 24, 2022

Streamwood football falls short in 14-10 defeat

By: Seth Hancock

In a defensive season opener, the **Streamwood** football team came up just short in a 14-10 loss to **Bartlett** in Upstate Eight Conference play on Friday, Aug. 26 at Millennium Field.

All of the game's scoring came in the middle quarters. **Bartlett** took the lead for good with 20 seconds left in the first half for a 7-2 lead then took advantage of a **Sabres** turnover on the first possession of the second half to take a 14-2 lead.

Junior **Sabres** quarterback Genaud Phillips ran 16 yards to the end zone on the next possession and added the two-point conversion run to pull to 14-10. Streamwood had its chances the rest of the game, the closest coming on a drive within 14 yards of the end zone early in the fourth quarter, but were not able to pull ahead.

Senior Cristian Clark put the Sabres on the board first with a sack resulting in a safety with four minutes left in the first half. Senior Jaiden Thomas had 103 rushing yards to lead **Streamwood**.

For **Streamwood** coach Keith McMaster, he's got a young team dominated by juniors with 12.

"We're a young team but our team goals remain the same," McMaster said. "We want to get into the playoffs. To do that, we have to take one game at a time and put up a winning record."

McMaster added: "Youth brings a lot of energy and excitement. These kids are ready to practice day to day. Many of our kids played up a few games last season as well."

The **Sabres** will rely on a couple seniors, Thomas and senior offensive lineman James Rivera, to provide leadership. "They've seen the successes and failures from the past," McMaster said. "It is up to them to lead and teach the new and younger players of our team."

---The Daily Herald---

Aug. 24, 2022

Girls tennis: DuPage County and Fox season preview

By: Dave Hess



Glenbard South returns its No. 1 singles player, Lorenza Foster Simbulan. *John Starks | Staff Photographer*

Can Hinsdale Central's girls tennis team repeat as Class 2A state champs?

That's one of the questions surrounding the upcoming season in the DuPage County and Fox area.

The Lady Red Devils return seniors Sophia Kim, Bridget Novatney and Nicole Hu. Kim and Katie Dollens, who graduated, were second in the state in doubles last spring.

"The goal is to take the conference, sectional and state meets one match a time," said Red Devils coach Shawna Zsinko.

That's not the only intriguing question,

Can Timothy Christian actually improve on its third-place finish in Class 1A from a year ago?

Can York improve on last season's 10th-place finish in the state's 2A tournament?

With the returns of seniors Chloe Siegfert and Lara Santa Ines, what type of season will Jacobs have?

Can Batavia repeat its success from 2021?

Timothy Christian, under the tutelage of Keith Mills, return 6 state qualifier from last season's third-place squad in 1A.

Trojans junior Chrystina Lee. 38-5 a year ago, is a 2-time Class 1A all-stater. She finished in the top 8 a year ago. Junior Clarissa Chen posted a 34-8 record a season ago. Chen, a top 12 finisher in doubles a season ago, is a 2-time all-stater and a 2-time sectional champion. Sophomore Jane Carter enjoyed an exceptional freshman campaign. She posted a 37-6 mark and finished in the top 12 at the state meet in doubles.

Seniors Angie Tornabene, Maddie Drye and Miliana Martens were state qualifiers as juniors.

"Coming off a third-place finish will be hard to replicate even though we have top players returning," said Trojans coach Keith Mills. "We are hoping to win a third straight sectional. We should be bolstered by the top 2A competition we face."

York is returning sophomore Lizzy Isyanov, a top 16 finisher in the state a year ago. Also back are state qualifiers senior Keira Polach and junior Lindsey White. Juniors Bella Bjerken and Claire Hewitt along with sophomore Josie Cohn have varsity experience. Freshman Sophia Filip hopes to crack the Dukes lineup.

"We want to work hard and build camaraderie," said coach Courtney Bison. "We have hard working positive and disciplined kids."

At Jacobs, Siegfort missed her junior season training in Florida. The Fox Valley Conference singles champ as a freshman and sophomore was a state qualifier both years.

Siegfort will continue her tennis career at Division II University of Sioux Falls.

Ines, who was a state qualifier and a FVC doubles champ as a sophomore, tore her ACL in her first match of her junior season. The Eagles also return sophomore Kylee Cohn, a state qualifier as a freshman.

"We want to have competitive relevance in the FVC again," said Jacobs coach Jon Betts. "Chloe, Lara and Kylee are a talented trio to lead the way."

Batavia, 18-1 a year ago, won the DuKane Conference with a perfect 7-0 slate. The defending sectional champs return senior state qualifier Dhruthi Daggubati (27-12). Others returning are seniors Taylor Steinys (17-1), Hannah Schneider (17-1), Madalyn Vieu (15-2), Addison LaManna and Audrey O' Connell (12-0). Junior Erin Connolly (20-5) and sophomore Julia Arulandu (18-5) return after solid years in 2021.

"We want to compete for weekend titles and repeat as conference and sectional champs," said coach Brad Nelson. "We want to bond as a team."

Other teams to watch

Elsewhere in the area, Aurora Central Catholic, second in the Metro Suburban in 2021, hopes to bring home the top prize in 2022.

Seniors Stella Feldhaus, Madison Schramka and Emily Henrich along with junior Amanda Bush and sophomore Matilda Feldhaus are back for the Chargers.

"We want to bring back the Metro Suburban Conference title that we won in 2020," said ACC coach Giselle Salazar.

Bartlett returns three starters from a team which finished third in the Upstate Eight Conference. Senior Jillian Burkart and juniors Shreena Patel and Aishwitha Sankara are back for the Hawks.

"We hope every player improves," said **Bartlett** coach Colleen Brandner. "We hope to improve in the conference standings."

Benet is a young and talented. The Redwings return 3 sophomores that enjoyed stellar freshman campaigns.

Benet, 19-3 overall and champions in the East Suburban Catholic with 7-0 mark, won the Class 2A sectional and was 15th in state.

Sophomore Clare Lopatka was conference and sectional singles champ and was a state qualifier.

Sophomores Shane DeLaney and Meredith Converse were state qualifiers as freshmen.

"We have a good returning core," said Benet coach Michael Hand. "The sectionals will be a tough task to repeat. There are some good and competitive teams in the area."

Cary-Grove is led by senior Annabella Gaffaney. Also returning with experience for the Trojans are seniors Maggie Groos and Teagan Bowers along with juniors Addie Lee, Chloe Warner and Kathleen O' Malley. Senior returnee Mary Sessoms will miss the 2022 campaign with an ACL injury.

Crystal Lake South lost eight starters from last season's team which finished second in the Fox Valley Conference. Returners for the Gators are seniors Jaden Applehans, Elena Cangelosi, Abby Jurrens and Phoenix Maag. Jurrens, the FVC champion at No. 3 singles, was a perfect 18-0.

Downers Grove North is guided by junior Emily Whittmer. As a sophomore, Whitmer was a state qualifier and lost to eventual Class 2A state champ Sarah Wang.

Senior Maddie Kiefer along with juniors Ella Book, Claire Flanigan and Helen Jones are back for Glenbard East. The Rams finished second in the Upstate Eight Conference.

Downers Grove South has four returners in seniors Catherine Hewawissa, Elle Vanderlaan, junior Julia Urgello and sophomore Antosia Olechowski.

Dundee-Crown's 2022 team will be led by Rajul Shah, Andrea Llavan, Karina McElroy and Sasha Bozovic.

Elgin's Golnaz Douzali has returnees Aadi Patel and Mahi Patel. Suhani Gandhi is a newcomer to watch.

Elgin Academy will be paced by junior Priyanka Bhogaraju, who played as a freshman at Barrington and sat out her sophomore season.

Senior Noelle Lanton and sophomore Addison Lanton also return for the Hilltoppers.

Elgin Academy placed seventh in the state in 1A a year ago.

"We want to finish at least in the top five in state," said coach Sterling Perez. "Priyanka is a great addition to the team."

Geneva is trying rebound from a winless 2021 season. The Vikings return seniors Katelyn Baer and Annabelle Karch, and juniors Aashi Jain and Annie Tomko.

"Last year was filled with injury, illness and heartbreaking losses," said Geneva coach Zach Evans. "We have our whole starting lineup back."

Back for Hampshire is seniors Izzy Masetti and Gabby Montenegro and juniors Ava Carroll, Isabelle Williamson, Christina Cruz and Rachel Brunsting.

Glenbard South is led by junior Lorenza Foster Simbulan, a top 30 finisher in singles in 2A a year. Naya Allen is also back for the Raiders, the defending Upstate Eight Conference champs.

"We hope to finish in the top half of the conference," said coach Bruce Fraser.

Glenbard North is paced by senior Risha Bhagat and junior Isabella Deleon. Newcomer Sydney Gromaka looks to contribute.

Glenbard West is led by junior state qualifier Mira Kernagis. Also returning for the Hilltoppers are senior Norah Chirila and sophomore Audrey Creswell.

Senior doubles state qualifiers Audrey Litfin and Jillian Paulson are back for Wheaton Academy.

"We have a strong lineup," said coach Joel Visker. "We want to send as many players to state as possible."

Hinsdale South should boast one of the top teams in Class 2A. The Hornets enjoyed a successful 2021 season with second-place finishes in the West Suburban Conference and sectionals and a 17th-place effort at the state meet.

The Hornets are led by seniors Makena Camden, Edie Mitchell, Avni Verma and Tessa Franks, and juniors Nikki Wu, Gabriella Brukasz and Arya Selvaraj.

Huntley's 18th-year coach Barry Wells is hoping to win a third straight Fox Valley Conference crown and move up a spot in the sectionals. The Red Raiders were second a year ago to Auburn. Senior two-time state qualifier Elaina Hibbeler paces Huntley in 2022.

Also back in the fold are senior Emily Chong and sophomores Kate Burkey, Arianna Patel, Carlie Weishaar and Delaney Stock. Talented freshman Ella Doughty hopes to break into the lineup.

"We graduated top seniors but have good returning players," said Wells. "We have strong depth."

Senior Amy Sletten along with juniors Alle Geiger and Analisa Raffaeli are back for IC Catholic Prep.

"We lost seven of nine players from last season," said coach Mike Pettineo. "We will have to play more consistently and strategically."

Kaneland senior Anelle Dominguez, who missed her entire junior season, qualified for Class 1A state as a sophomore.

The sophomore duo of Brooke Coffman and Gabby Lee helped Naperville North helped to a second-place finish in the DuPage Valley Conference and second in the Class 2A sectionals.

Junior Aaryana Parekh is expected to fill the No. 1 singles spot.

Neuqua Valley returns seniors Hannah Kesterberg, Victoria Yin and Emily Chiou, state qualifiers a year ago.

Also back for the Wildcats are seniors Tanisha Aggarwal, and Kendall Klimek. Neuqua Valley placed 12th in the state a year ago.

Metea Valley is led by senior Alisha Arya, juniors Harsha Gangasani and Sangita Silva, and sophomores Sophia Cahue and Sarlina Saleem.

"We have four returning seniors," said coach Will Rose. "We hope to have a great season."

Rosary returns senior Lauren Audred Paschaud along with juniors Tes Ketterman, Emma Woodford, Laney Runde and Sarah Duvall.

South Elgin returns seniors Naima Davis and Emma Smith along with sophomores Ava Grzeski and Sophia Brito

St. Charles East is led by senior state qualifier Kate Lauger.

"We finished very strong," said East coach Matthew Bulman. "We had tremendous growth as season went on. We have a ton of talent led by Katie."

St. Charles North is paced by junior state qualifier Allie Gizewicz. Seniors Alyssa Joseph, Keira Gallon and Anne Oshana are back for the North Stars. Sean Masoncup's squad was second in the sectional and DuKane Conference in 2021.

St. Francis is led by the senior doubles duo of Madelyn Haden and Elen Ryson, state qualifiers in 1A the last 2 seasons. Also back are seniors Caroline King, Elle Glabs, Bridget Rice and Nina

Ossey.

"We want to advance multiple players to state, win conference (Metro Suburban) and win sectional," said coach Tom Castronovo. "We have a lot of experience but we have to slot in new players."

West Aurora, second in the Southwest Prairie a year ago, is led by conference champs juniors Jill Patel and Kelsey Danner. Also back to bolster the Blackhawks are seniors Delaney Bastian and Amber Brown along with junior Mia Malczyk.

Wheaton North, under the guidance of Eric Laird, has a veteran team with seven returning players.

The 2022 Falcons will feature seniors Kitty Noland, Sophia Fadel, Saede Berner and Clara Delzell along with junior Hannah Swanson and sophomores Kaylee Phillips and Stella Tarusha.

"We have good depth from top to bottom," Laird said.

Willowbrook coach Ed Delacruz welcomes back seniors Molly Brennan, Adele Valev and Jasmine Langston.

---The Daily Herald---

Aug. 24, 2022

Girls swimming: DuPage County and Fox season preview

By: Greg Voss



Rosary's Elizabeth Nawrocki swims breaststroke in the 200-yard medley relay at last year's state meet. The Bears have several swimmers back looking to build on last year's seventh-place finish at state. Joe Lewnard | Staff Photographer

The Rosary girls swimming and diving team isn't all business when it comes to their craft in trade.

It only seems that way.

Drop by practice on a late summer afternoon at Marmion, and there the Bears are, taking laps under the watchful eye of coach Glenn Brown.

But before hitting the pool, there is laughing and joking, however muted. This group knows how to have fun, too.

So which is it -- business or fun?

"I would say it's a little bit of both," said senior captain Meghan Eng, a backstroker. "I would definitely say we're trying to have as much fun as possible, but as team captain, I'm always trying to do things behind the

scenes to make sure that the team is prepared for all these meets.

"But I would definitely say all of us are focusing on the goal of trying to bring home a trophy at state."

Rosary got close a year ago, finishing seventh with 52 points, one ahead of perennial power Stevenson.

The Beads were led by then-freshman Becky Rentz, from Batavia, who finished second in the 100-yard butterfly at 54.09 seconds. Classmate Elizabeth Nawrocki took fourth in the 100 breaststroke in 1:03.44. Lauren O'Connor, now a junior, finished sixth in the 100 backstroke at 56.31.

Eng and Rentz also contributed to a ninth-place finish in the meet-ending 400 freestyle relay at 3:29.37. The leadoff in that race was the graduated Sara Jass, who is at Illinois, and of whom Brown called "a rock star."

Jass may be gone, but there is plenty of firepower for Brown, who's in his fourth year at the helm of Rosary, particularly in the sophomore class, led by Rentz and Nawrocki.

How did those girls acquire such poise to be so competitive at state? Go back in time to find out.

"In swimming, I like to say there's three different years which will be hard for them," Brown said. "When they turn 9, they don't get to swim 25 (yards) anymore, which is one lap of the pool. They have to do at least 2

laps. When they turn 13, there are no more 50s.

"When they are freshmen, they have to swim against 15- 16-, 17-, 18-year-olds, because that's all its own age group, and that can be very intimidating. I was blessed last year with our freshmen, who had been to a lot of club swimming state meets, and I think the biggest thing is pumping their heads full of confidence."

This year's squad is similar to a year ago, in that the Beads will be strong in stroke events, i.e., the events that aren't freestyle. The focus this year is building up a little more sprint speed in freestyle. No one can replace Jass, but the plan is for one of those youngsters to step up and score the points that she did.

"It should be a fun year," Brown said.

But business-like as well, according to Rentz and Nawrocki.

"I mean, there is always a business element to it, as with any competitive swimming," Rentz said, "but high school swimming is so much fun."

"I would say we have good balance," added Nawrocki.

Girls swimming at a glance

Key dates: Sectionals Nov. 5; State meet Nov. 11-12 in Westmont

2021 sectional champions: Hersey, St. Ignatius, Hinsdale Central, Dunlap,

Edwardsville, Andrew, Stevenson, Lincoln-Way East, Oswego East, Normal, Oak Park, Lyons, Byron, St. Charles North, Champaign Central, New Trier

2021 state top five: New Trier (182), Barrington (100), Hinsdale Central (100), Oswego East (98), St. Charles North (97)

Top swimmers: Olivia Allendorf, Dundee-Crown, senior; Jazmine Aragon, Fenton, senior; Ellie Bawolek, St. Charles North, senior; Izzy Beu, St. Charles North, sophomore; Kylee Blaha, West Aurora, senior; Kalina Ceglinski, York, senior; Lanie Chen, Hinsdale South, sophomore; Jillian Cherwin, Huntley, senior; Ruhee Chetan, Neuqua Valley, junior; Lauren Collins, Naperville Central, senior; Lainey Devine, Benet, senior; Una Dizdarevic, Lake Park, sophomore; Payton Dorman, St. Charles East, junior; Imogen Duffy, Benet, sophomore; Aimee Duhamel, Naperville North, senior; Isabella Ecklund, **Larkin**, senior; Meghan Eng, Rosary, senior; Alison Fitzgerald, Dundee-Crown, senior; Maeve Flaherty, Glenbard West/South, junior; Jackie Gabbert, St. Francis, sophomore; Tori Hinson, **Elgin**, senior; Elizabeth Hritz, Lisle, freshman; Maggie Johnston, Hinsdale South, junior; Courtney Kaye, St. Edward, sophomore; Carrie Kramer, Hinsdale Central, senior; Allie Leslie, Metea Valley, junior; Chloe Lobdell, Glenbard West/South, junior; Veronica Loska, Fenton, sophomore; Cami Mayo, West Chicago, senior; Ruby Meier, Waubonsie Valley, sophomore; Grace Mercado, Larkin, junior; Mikella Mesina, **South Elgin**, sophomore; Katelyn Mumper, Hampshire/Jacobs, junior; Amelia Murphy, West Chicago, junior; Kaylin Olsen, **South Elgin**, junior; Lizzie

Patterson, Naperville North, senior; Bella Plude, Waubonsie Valley, sophomore; Becky Rentz, Rosary, sophomore; senior; Anna Robbins, Hampshire/Jacobs, junior; Lizzy Rosenberg, Neuqua Valley, junior; Ava Russo, Lake Park, sophomore; Amanda Schmitt, Metea Valley, senior; Kit Schneider, Hinsdale Central, senior; Abbie Sheldon, St. Francis, sophomore; Clare Shiffer, Naperville Central, senior; Julia Smitendorf, Huntley, senior; Jessica Solar, Glenbard North, senior; Jasmine Soria-Gonzalez, Lisle, senior; Tess Walsh, St. Charles East, senior; Grace Weisse, West Aurora, senior; Ella Witteveen, Glenbard North, senior; Brooke Wolfe, York, senior.