

## Press Clippings for 9/06/2022

### ---Chicago Tribune---

Sep. 03, 2022

## Teacher, support staff shortage prompts ‘all hands on deck’ as new school year gets underway

By: Karen Ann Cullotta



Veronica Gonzalez, left, hugs St. Bartholomew Catholic School Principal Nilma Osiecki during a job fair hosted by the Archdiocese of Chicago at the Archbishop Quigley Center on Aug. 24, 2022.

(Armando L. Sanchez / Chicago Tribune)

Weeks after Illinois students began what is predicted to be a more “normal” school year, a steep shortage of teachers and other essential employees is forcing many administrators to take an all-hands-on-deck approach.

“While things may be feeling a bit more regular with the start of this school year, especially after two years of the pandemic, we still have a major staffing crisis in many of our districts,” said Kathi Griffin, president of the Illinois Education Association, the state’s largest union.

A majority of the union's roughly 135,000 members are seeing shortages in their districts in both teaching and support staff positions, including bus drivers, custodians, paraprofessionals and secretaries, Griffin said.

"This time of year is always stressful for educators, parents and students, but this year we're also seeing teachers being asked to pick up more work in order to cover for unfilled positions and support staff taking over additional duties as well as subbing for teachers," she said.

Efforts to ensure the state's classrooms are staffed, buses are running and school buildings are cleaned is unfolding as a nationwide school employee shortage prompted the White House to announce a new initiative to jump-start hiring.

The U.S. Department of Education announced Wednesday it plans to partner with talent recruitment and job platforms including ZipRecruiter, Handshake and Indeed "to make it easier for states and school districts to source, recruit, and hire job seeking teachers and school professionals, and to help more Americans find jobs in education."

For Illinois educators like Trisha Meyers, a paraprofessional in Crystal Lake, the statewide scarcity of substitute teachers has created hardships this fall that state and federal recruitment and retention programs will not resolve in the short term.

"Paraprofessionals who are able to sub for a teacher are often asked to sub at the very last minute ... sometimes as they're walking in the door, and they're not always prepared," said Meyers, president of the support staff union at Prairie Grove Consolidated **School District 46**.

"Even if the paraprofessional has their sub certification, that is not part of their job description, and not what they signed up for," Meyers said.

Superintendent John Bute said **District 46** has asked paraprofessionals with substitute teaching qualifications to step in for teachers more often over the last 18 months as other substitutes have been scarce.

“Because these paraprofessionals have other responsibilities, we make every effort to limit their usage as substitute teachers,” he said in a statement.

When paraprofessionals are used as substitute teachers, the district pays them “higher wages (per contract) and have offered to give them even more money for this school year,” Bute said. The amount of money for the 2022-23 school year is still under negotiation with the union, he said.

While there are no vacant teacher positions, Bute said the district hopes to hire four additional paraprofessionals, three bus drivers and three custodians, and he said substitute teachers are needed in all areas.

Officials with the Illinois State Board of Education said they will not know the number of educator vacancies in the state until next month.

At this time last year, there were 5,302 vacancies statewide, including 2,135 certified teachers, 2,439 paraprofessionals, 638 school support staff members and 90 administrators, according to an October 2021 ISBE survey. The data do not include substitute teachers and bus drivers.

The survey showed Illinois added 6,801 new teachers to the profession last fall, for a net increase of 1,240 teachers, and a teacher vacancy of 1.5% statewide.

“Overall, the teacher shortage has improved in Illinois, and it has improved because we have invested in keeping the teacher pipeline strong,” said Carmen Ayala, superintendent of the State Board of Education.

While many Illinois districts that enroll children from low-income urban and rural communities faced teacher shortages long before the COVID-19 pandemic, Ayala said new evidence-based funding, which changes the way school districts receive the bulk of state funds, is sending more resources to the state’s most underfunded schools.

While the severity of teacher shortages varies among school districts, Ayala said many schools are short special education and bilingual education teachers.

“As we are getting back to a new normal, people are feeling more comfortable about entering this amazing profession,” Ayala said.

“We’re doing everything we can to attract individuals, and the flip side is the retention piece,” Ayala said.

At Elgin-based Unit **School District 46**, officials are planning another job fair with open interviews for positions such as paraeducators, bus drivers and teachers, **Superintendent Tony Sanders** said.

“Our doors are open and all classrooms have an adult teaching students; however, we still need more permanent staff,” Sanders said.

In Cary School District 26, “it’s been an all-hands-on-deck approach this year, and last year,” said Laura Whyte, co-president of the teachers union.

“Classes have to be covered, but people are being pulled in different directions,” said Whyte, a District 26 speech pathologist.

Whyte’s co-president in the union and a fellow District 26 speech pathologist, Annette Bear, said she is troubled by how often educators are being asked to pinch-hit, and above all, the impact on students.

“Students are like, ‘Whoa ... who’s this?’” Bear said. “Students are used to their teacher or aide, and when they have someone they have never seen before, it is very inconsistent and stressful for the kids.”

Officials with Cary School District 26 were not immediately available for comment.

Benjamin Felton, deputy chief talent officer at Chicago Public Schools, said that given the district's abundance of teacher recruitment and retention programs, "CPS is well-positioned to weather the storm."

"Despite the national shortage, and the labor market being exceptionally tight, we have more teachers than we did a year ago," Felton said.

As of Monday, more than 20,700 school-based teachers were on staff at CPS, an increase of more than 200 from the beginning of last year. The vacancy rate is about 4.5%, which officials anticipate will continue to decline, a CPS spokeswoman said.

Chicago Teachers Union President Stacy Davis Gates said the district needs more community-based recruitment and support through programs such as Grow Your Own, a state-funded initiative to increase the number of diverse teachers in public schools.

"Our students desperately need more trained adults to help them tackle the trauma of both the pandemic and the inequities that hurt their families and their neighborhoods long before COVID," she said in a statement. "To meet those needs, CPS has got to retain educators and work to expand diversity in our teaching ranks."

Of the district's new teacher hires, 48% are Black or Latino, Felton said.

"We believe representation matters, and it's really critical for young people to see teachers from their communities in the classroom," Felton said.



**Jennifer Franco, left, director of marketing admissions at St. Albert the Great Catholic School, talks with Franshon Jackson during a job fair hosted by the Archdiocese of Chicago on Aug. 24, 2022. (Armando L. Sanchez / Chicago Tribune)**

The Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools, which had more than 200 vacancies in August 2021, started this school year with 58 full-time teacher openings after holding a series of job fairs and seeking the help of professional recruiters, Superintendent Greg Richmond said.

“We were very worried about it last spring, for the same reason public school districts were worried about it, because for many teachers, it was the worst year of their careers,” Richmond said.

“Instead, we only saw normal levels of departures, so we were very successful,” he said.

“But for a principal, that’s no comfort to them when they still need a middle school math teacher, so there are still challenges, and we will continue to work to find solutions,” Richmond said.

While teacher recruitment remains a top priority at both public and private schools, Dan Montgomery, president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, said that unless educators are fairly compensated, even those who are most passionate about teaching will leave the profession.

“I talked to a teacher in southern Illinois the other day who was in tears, because she is pregnant, her salary is \$40,000 a year, and her insurance premium for family coverage is \$2,000 a month,” Montgomery said.

“Those are conditions that have to change,” he said.

## **---The Courier News---**

**Sep. 03, 2022**

### **Benefit brews up money to support Elgin parks program scholarships**

**By: Mike Danahey**

Beer enthusiasts will get to sample craft and home brews in a beautiful setting to benefit a good cause, as the Elgin Parks and Recreation Foundation hosts its annual Illinois Brews @ Bowes Creek fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Bowes Creek Country Club on the city's far west side.

“This is our biggest fundraiser, and it's also a way to make the public aware of the Bowes Creek golf and country club, which belongs to the city. So the community owns it,” Parks and Recreation Foundation member Randy Reopelle said.

Reopelle, Elgin's former Director of Parks and Recreation, is one the people who founded the event. Since its inception in 2011 total revenues have been almost \$177,000. The money has helped fund 1,414 scholarships to help youths take part in Elgin Parks and Recreation Department programming, Reopelle said.

The gathering has drawn between 600 — 700 people, Reopelle said, and two summers ago, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was even held as an online event.

The event is so named as it features only beers brewed in Illinois. This year, between what craft brewers will provide and what members of the Silverado Homebrew Club bring, there will be about 50 beers to sample, said Brett Lind, Parks and Rec fitness operations manager, and the event's resident craft beer expert.

“With the mix we have, the coolest part is that you'll have a chance to try beers you wouldn't get to try anywhere else,” Lind said.

Lind has been involved with the fundraiser since the get-go. As for trends he's seen, he pointed toward a decadelong craze for fruit-forward, hazy, less bitter style New England IPAs.

"And there's a wave coming back to truer beers, the more traditional lager, pilsner and stout styles," Lind said.

The years have seen a growing number of craft breweries in the Fox Valley, Lind said, and quite a few will be represented at the gathering.

Those include Energy City of Batavia who were a crowd favorite in 2021 and will be back with two of their heavily fruited Berliner weisse beers, Lind said. And More Brewing's Huntley location will provide Open Fields, a cream ale inspired by baseball's "Field of Dreams."

Other brewing companies providing beers will be: Khaos of Plainfield; Pollyanna and Riverlands in St. Charles; Sew Hop'd in Huntley; Obscurity in Elburn, which also makes mead; Two Brothers in Warrenville; Hopewell and Maplewood from Chicago; Penrose of Geneva; Miskatonic of Darien; and Oswego.

Silverado spokesman Rich Placko said club members will be offering samples of 20 or so of their homemade brews.

"I always love chatting with the home-brewers," Lind said.

Also back this year will be the band Unscheduled Tour, food from Johnny's Supper Club (the restaurant at the country club) and something that **Elgin High School Assistant Athletic Director Peg Corcoran** thought up for last year's fundraiser — a raffle of craft beers donated for the cause.

Corcoran has been helping out with the Bowes bash for more than three years and has been on the foundation board for about a year. She admits to being not much of a beer person, preferring Coors Light if and when she does have a cold one.

"But what I like is the setting. Outdoors on the patio on a beautiful day, you can't beat it. And, at the end of the day, the kids of Elgin benefit from what we're doing," Corcoran said.

Illinois Brews @ Bowes Creek runs from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at Bowes Creek Country Club, 1250 Bowes Creek Blvd., Elgin. VIP ticket holders gain access to the event at 3 p.m.

Tickets start at \$40 and include craft and home brew samplings, snacks and a commemorative mug. VIP and designated driver tickets are also available.



To purchase tickets and for more information, see [www.elginparksfoundation.org/ilbrewsatbowes](http://www.elginparksfoundation.org/ilbrewsatbowes). For more information on the foundation, email [Cumpata\\_M@cityofelgin.org](mailto:Cumpata_M@cityofelgin.org) or see [www.elginparksfoundation.org](http://www.elginparksfoundation.org).

## ---The Daily Herald---

Sep. 02, 2022

### U-46 employee accused of sexually abusing middle school student

By: Maia Luem

An Elgin Area School District U-46 employee has been charged with the sexual assault, aggravated sexual abuse and child luring of a student at Tefft Middle School in Streamwood.

The Kane County state's attorney's office said Magdiel Perez, 25, of the 1-99 block of Lockman Circle in Elgin, was working as a hall monitor at Tefft when he met the victim. Authorities said that Perez has repeated sexual contact with the victim from May to August and that on at least one occasion he drove the victim to his home

In a letter to parents, Superintendent Tony Sanders and Tefft Principal Luis Fernando De Leon said U-46 was made aware of allegations on Aug. 22, and Perez was immediately placed on leave. Perez is expected to be officially fired the U-46 board on Sept. 12, the letter said.

U-46 has established a dedicated Let's Talk portal for reporting suspected sexual misconduct. While complaints may be entered anonymously, provide as many specifics as possible because it is difficult to follow up on anonymous complaints, the letter advised.

Kane County Judge Julia Yetter set Perez's bail at \$200,000 on Friday. He would need to post \$20,000 to be released pending trial.

If he posts bond, Perez would be prohibited from any contact with the victim or unsupervised contact with any other child. He would be banned from Tefft Middle School and would have to surrender any firearms, Firearms Owners Identification card, concealed carry permit and his passport, according to a news release.

Perez's next court appearance is set for 9 a.m. Sept. 15 at the Kane County Judicial Center.

## **---CBS Chicago---**

**Sep. 02, 2022**

### **U-46 school district employee faces child sex charges in Kane County**

**By: CBS Chicago Team**

CHICAGO (CBS) – A school employee in the Elgin Area **School District U-46** is facing child sex charges in Kane County.

Magdiel Perez, 25, was charged with criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual abuse, and child luring, according to the Kane County State's Attorney's Office.

Prosecutors alleged that between May 1 and Aug. 30, Perez had "sexual contact" with the victim, who was younger than 18 years old. On at least one occasion, Perez is alleged to have driven the victim to his home in Elgin where the sexual contact occurred.

Perez was employed by the district at the time and held a "position of trust and authority," prosecutors said. He met the victim when they were a student at **Tefft Middle School** in Streamwood.

Perez appeared in Kane County bond court on Friday and Judge Julia Yetter set his bail at \$200,000, of which he'd have to pay 10% for bond. If he posts bond, he would be barred from any contact with the victim, can't have any unsupervised contact with anyone younger than 18 years of age, and is prohibited from being on the **Tefft Middle School** property.

His next court appearance is set for Sept. 15.

The case remains under investigation. Anyone with information about Perez is asked to call Kane County Child Advocacy Center investigator Dave Smith at 630-845-3780.

The school district said Perez is on leave and the Board of Education is expected to ratify his termination at its Sept. 12 meeting.

## **---Fox 32 Chicago---**

**Sep. 02, 2022**

### **School employee faces child luring, criminal sexual assault charges**

**By: Fox 32 Digital Staff**

KANE COUNTY, Ill. - An **Elgin** man is facing numerous charges for having sexual contact with a minor while he was a school employee.

Magdiel Perez, 25, is charged with criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual abuse and child luring.

Between May 1 and Aug. 30, 2022, Perez allegedly had sexual contact with a victim who was younger than 18 years old.

On at least one occasion, Perez allegedly drove to the home of the victim, where the sexual contact occurred.

At the time of the alleged crimes, Perez was employed by **School District U-46**, and met the victim while they were a student at **Tefft Middle School** in Streamwood.

Bail was set for Perez at \$200,000 on Friday.

His next court appearance is set for Sept. 15.

The case remains under investigation.

Anyone with information about Perez is asked to call Kane County Child Advocacy Center Investigator Dave Smith at (630) 845-3780.

## **---Univision Chicago---**

**Sep. 02, 2022**

### **Exempleado de escuela enfrenta cargos por delitos sexuales**

**By: Univision**

Un ex trabajador de una escuela, identificado como Magdiel Pérez, enfrenta cargos por delitos sexuales, informó la oficina del fiscal del Condado Kane.

De acuerdo con las autoridades, Pérez habría abusado de una víctima entre mayo y agosto de 2022, quien en ese momento era menor de 18 años.

Por medio de un reporte se detalló que el sujeto, en al menos una ocasión, habría llevado a la víctima a su casa en Elgin, donde se habría dado la agresión sexual.

En ese momento, se detalló, Pérez trabajaba como empleado en el Distrito Escolar U-46.

Pérez conoció a la víctima cuando ésta estudiaba en la Tefft Middle School en la localidad de Streamwood.

Pérez enfrenta un cargo por asalto sexual, dos por abuso sexual agravado y uno más por acechar menores.

Este viernes, Pérez compareció ante la corte de Kane, donde se le fijó una fianza de 200,000 dólares, de los que puede pagar \$20,000 para llevar su proceso en libertad.

En caso de pagar la fianza, la autoridad le prohibió cualquier contacto con la víctima, ni contacto no supervisado con cualquier persona menor a 18 años.

Además, tiene prohibido presentarse en territorio de la Tefft Middle School.

La próxima cita de Pérez en la Corte fue fijada para el 15 de septiembre a las 9 a.m.

Las autoridades pidieron a la comunidad que, en caso de reconocer a Pérez o conocer otras posibles víctimas, comunicarse al teléfono (630) 845-3780.

**---abc 7---**

**Sep. 01, 2022**

## **COVID-19 pandemic blamed for major drop in math, reading scores among 9-year-olds**

**By: John Garcia**

ELGIN, Ill. (WLS) -- Experts are blaming the pandemic for a major drop in math and reading scores for 9-year-old students.

Results from what is known as the "Nation's Report Card" show the largest decline in reading since 1990, and the first-ever decline in math.

"We are seeing the impact of the pandemic and the impact of students being in isolation and experiencing collective trauma," said Dr. Carolyn Theard-Griggs, National Louis University.

According to a study by the National Center for Education Statistics released Thursday, test scores around the country during the pandemic dropped for the first time in at least three decades.

"This is a generational impact for this entire population of students," District U-46 Supt. Tony Sanders said.

The study found math scores dropped by an average of 7 points among 9-year-olds. In reading, they dropped by 5 points. Educators say those gaps are similar for students at all grade levels.

"I'm very concerned about these scores and I know we have the resources now and we need to maintain the same level of urgency we had two years ago to get our students back in, to making sure our students get support," U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said.

Researchers found the drop in test scores even more dramatic among low-income and minority populations.

"We have amazing teachers that are doing amazing work to catch them up, but it's not gonna be made up in one or two years," Sanders said. "This is gonna take years to overcome the learning loss over the last couple years."

In District U-46, they say the pandemic not only put students behind academically, but socially as well. To address that, they've hired additional social workers and counselors in schools.

## **---The Daily Herald---**

**Sep. 02, 2022**

### **South Elgin's big plays, defense too much for Glenbard East**

**By: Craig Brueske**



**Glenbard East Raul Garcia (1) breaks up a long pass to South Elgin's Kyle Steinhofer (6) Friday September 2, 2022 in South Elgin. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer***

Glenbard East coach John Walters referred to Friday night's Upstate Eight Conference football showdown with **South Elgin** as "a heavyweight matchup."

It was exactly that.

**The Storm** (2-0, 2-0) delivered an early jab when quarterback Jake Sullivan connected with senior Mason Montgomery for a 40-yard touchdown strike on the opening possession for an 8-0 lead.

Then, **South Elgin** delivered the late knockout on two more big plays -- a 47-yard TD pass from Sullivan to Montgomery with 15 seconds left in the third quarter -- and Jordan Green's 39-yard touchdown run up the middle with 4:45 remaining on the way to a 22-6 victory over the Rams (1-1, 1-1) in **South Elgin**.

Between the big-play scores, neither team was able to get on track offensively, as both defenses came ready to play.

The first half featured a goal-line stand from the Rams, just 3 combined first downs and 9 punts.

"I thought Glenbard East was physical and tough tonight," said **Storm** coach Dragan Teonic, whose team recorded its 16th consecutive conference victory and stretched its home winning streak to 15. "They're generally the most physical team that we face in our conference year in and year out, and that showed again tonight.

"The challenge for us was to match it. Our defense is pretty good, too."

Led by linebackers Michael Tringali (15 ½ tackles, including 3 sacks) and Christian Tecza, the Storm held the Rams in check for the much of the night until quarterback Dillon Williams' 31-yard TD pass to Gianbiagio Brusca with 2:24 remaining.

The touchdown was the first allowed by **South Elgin** this season.

"Michael (Stringali) is, bar none, the best defensive player in our conference," said Teonic, whose team added interceptions from Shawn Clausen and Frankie Melchiorre, and a fumble recovery by Isaiah Alejandre.

Montgomery, who caught 3 passes for 87 yards and a pair of scores, now has 7 touchdowns in 2 games -- 6 receiving TDs.

"We got punched in the mouth a little bit, so we knew we had to step it up," said Montgomery, who also played a role in the defensive secondary. "That's what we did.

"Their defense is tough -- probably the toughest I've played in high school. They have a physical front line."

Troy Cooper, Demontay Mack, Delmario Taylor, and Jordan Boykin (interception) paced the Rams' defense.

"Our defense did a real good job," said receiver Yassin Nabil, who caught a team-high 4 passes.

"Our offense couldn't show its true potential because we were making little mistakes.

"We're going to bounce back next week and keep proving people wrong."

## ---The Daily Herald---

Sep. 02, 2022

### Vincent's 87-yard TD lifts Larkin over Streamwood

By: Allen Oshinski

**Larkin** moved the ball up and down the field in the first half, but the **Royals** found themselves trailing **Streamwood** 8-0 at halftime.

**Larkin** turned the ball over twice and ended up being penalized for 103 yards.

But it only took one play to make all of that irrelevant.

With **Larkin** trailing 8-6 in the fourth period, quarterback Jaheim Vincent narrowly avoided a sack, reversed course, and wove through traffic for an 87-yard touchdown. Chevelle Clements' 2-point conversion run made it 14-6 and the **Royals'** defense made it stand up as the final score.

**Larkin** (1-1) broke into the victory column with the Upstate Eight win at Memorial Field.

**Larkin** rushed for 305 yards, led by Clements, who had 142 yards and the **Royals'** other touchdown on a 29-yard, third-quarter run. Vincent finished with 91 yards after absorbing a couple of sacks, and Jalen Miller added 56.

"I was just trying to roll out for a pass," Vincent said. "Playmakers sometimes have to make plays so I was just rolling out trying to make something happen. I know it was a close game so I was just trying to make a play and I got it done for the team."



Before that play, the **Royals** relied heavily on their muscle car. Clements carried the ball 18 times, caught a pass for 14 yards, and recovered an onside kick.

All that work "pays off a lot," he said. "[The offensive linemen] were opening holes wide. I saw green grass, I could just make the cut and execute."

The **Royals'** defense did the rest, forcing 3 turnovers and holding the **Sabres** to 163 total yards, all on the ground.

"It was a really hard game," said Hector Flores. "At the end we had to just stay together, push with everything we've got and try to win the game."

**Streamwood** scored first by taking advantage of one of Larkin's turnovers. After a pass was batted down in the backfield, the **Sabres'** Jaiden Thomas fell on it. Officials ruled it a lateral and **Streamwood** took over at the **Larkin** 3-yard line.

Three plays later, quarterback Aden Strong sneaked it over from the 1. Thomas's run for the conversion made it 8-0.

It looked like that score might hold up until Vincent's wild play.

"You hate it to come down to one play, but that's two games in a row where one play has beaten us," said **Streamwood** coach Keith McMaster. "That's two great efforts in a row by the defense. Fourteen points, you should win a game."

John Ray ran for 60 yards for **Streamwood** (0-2). Thomas added 50 and Genaud Phillips had 46.

Vincent also completed 5 of 7 passes for the **Royals**. He hit three in a row on the Royals' final drive. That drive covered 12 plays and, although the Royals didn't score, it allowed them to run out the clock.

**---The Daily Herald---**

**Sep. 01, 2022**

## **Boys soccer: Conant advances to Barrington tournament final**

**By: Mike Garofola**

Conant will play in the Barrington Classic tournament final Saturday night after sweeping aside host **Streamwood**, 6-0, Thursday afternoon at Millennium Field in Streamwood in the pool play finale for both clubs.

The Cougars (4-0-1) will play either Barrington or Boylan at 6 p.m. at Barrington Community Stadium.

"It's been quite a turnaround for us compared to last season," said Conant coach Jason Franco, whose club went 2-16-1 last fall, scoring just 19 goals while finishing near the bottom of the MSL table.

"Everyone made a strong commitment to getting better during the offseason. And with the addition of Krystian (Niziolek), we can now play an attacking style using all of the talent we have," added senior Carson Belcher, who doubled the Cougars' advantage to 2-0 with his team-high seventh goal just before the half-hour.

The Cougars turned up the pressure on the **Sabres** (1-2-2) right from the opening whistle playing through the aforementioned Belcher and Niziolek as well as Peter Cirbo, Carson Hagler, Frank Mari and Kanau Takahasti. They were the pace setters in a Cougars attack which has already bagged 22 on the season.

Niziolek, back from club soccer this fall, scored the first of his three on the day after quickly played diagonal passes from Sai Patel and Takahashi. That would pry open the **Sabres** in its own end in the 21st minute.

Mari, whom Franco would praise afterward, provided the helper on Belcher's goal in the 28th minute. That was followed by another from the sophomore Niziolek before Patel made it 4-0 just before the intermission.

"First, and foremost, we have to get healthy. Then our decision-making and speed of play and possession must be better. (But) like I told the guys, let's get all of this stuff out of the way early on and get ourselves ready for the regular season," said **Streamwood** coach Matt Polovan, who was without his first class central defender Marcos Gutierrez, who is day-to-day.

Polovan's club will await its final opponent of the tournament after a handful of games are completed.

Franco would begin to bring his reserves on after Niziolek made it 5-0 with Belcher and Mari creating the opportunity for their teammate in the 49th minute.

Freshman Gabe Dobrincu added one last goal to the score line when he converted his PK effort in the 54th minute.

Senior Varun Mittal recorded the shutout for the Cougars.

## **---The Daily Herald---**

**Sep. 01, 2022**

### **Scouting Week 2 Fox area football games**

**By: Jake Bartelson, Steve Soucie and Joe Stevenson  
Shaw Local**



Batavia's Ryan Whitwell carries the ball during the Bulldogs' win over Phillips at Gately Stadium in Chicago last Saturday. *Sandy Bressner*/[sbressner@shawmedia.com](mailto:sbressner@shawmedia.com)

Glenbard East (1-0, 1-0) at **South Elgin** (1-0, 1-0)

When: Friday, 7 p.m.

Previous meeting: **South Elgin** 41, Glenbard East 7 (2021 at Glenbard East)

About the Rams: No time being wasted here with two of the top teams in the Upstate Eight battling it out. "This is always a big game for both teams," Rams coach John Walters said. "They have won the conference the last three years, including sharing with us in 2019. We have won it twice, including the share. It's a big heavyweight matchup for Week 2. For us, we get back-to-back playoff teams to start the season. This will be a real good test for us. To be successful we have to execute on both sides and be efficient. The game will come down to a battle in the trenches on both sides." Walters cited strong Week 1 play from Troy Cooper, Delmario Taylor and Dimitri Hritz.

About the **Storm**: "Glenbard East is big and strong at almost every position," **South Elgin** coach Dragan Teonic said. "They return a lot of experienced players and are coming off a big win." Teonic noted the Rams ran for 255 yards against **Larkin** and had 11 explosive plays. "Limiting that would go a long way toward being successful on Friday," he said. "As always, their defense is solid and disciplined. They pursue and hit well. We have to win the line of scrimmage and secure the football to play well." Teonic gave high marks to the play of senior linebacker

Michael Tringali, junior quarterback Jake Sullivan, senior athlete Mason Montgomery and senior athlete Kyle Steinhofer in the Week 1 win against West Chicago.

West Chicago (0-1, 0-1) at **Bartlett** (1-0, 1-0)

When: Friday, 7 p.m.

Previous meeting: **Bartlett** 33, West Chicago 6 (2021 at West Chicago)

About the Wildcats: Wildcats coach Adam Chavez said several adjustments must be made coming out of Week 1 against **South Elgin** (51-0 loss). "We have to cut down on penalties and protect the ball in order to have a chance to put us in a position to win," he said. Individually, Chavez liked how Ean Arizmendi played on the line. "Ean showed some flashes on the line for being a freshman in his first varsity action," he said.

About the Hawks: **Bartlett** was a close 14-10 winner over rival **Streamwood** in its season-opener. "Week 2 against **Bartlett** will be a physical contest," Chavez said. "They are a very physical team on both sides of the ball." **Bartlett** coach Milan Vuckovich said film from West Chicago's Week 1 game against **South Elgin** opened some eyes. "West Chicago showed some good things on film," he said. "They have good size up front and some dudes who can really run. Their kickoff return really stood out and showed how fast and athletic their team is. They have some very good skill position kids who can come downhill and make plays. We need to once again match their toughness up front with both our offensive and defensive lines and then do a good job containing their speed on defense." Vuckovich was impressed with **Bartlett's** defensive effort in Week 1 against **Streamwood**. "The stat that doesn't show up on the stat sheet is the lack of missed tackles," he said. "Our defense did a really good job corralling their running backs and slowing down the fast, tough and physical approach to their offense. Also, our quarterback (Matthew Teruel) and offensive line seemed to be on the same page this past week and that showed in Matthew's stat line, as well as our trio of running backs." Senior linebacker Juan Villa didn't start the game, but played nearly every snap on defense for the Hawks, "and proved he's going to be a big-time player for us this season," Vuckovich said. Senior running back/linebacker Malcolm Babers also stood out. "This young man is playing on

both sides of the ball and playing extremely effectively," Vuckovich said. "He was one of our leaders on the inside of the defense, and when he got the opportunity to touch the ball, he ran hard and with purpose." Sophomore two-way lineman Sam Mancilla and junior tight end-defensive end Justin Ibegbulem also had good 2022 debuts. "What can I say about Sam?" Vuckovich asked. "Although he doesn't even have his driver's permit yet, he's been a man on the field and another one of our 'iron-man' type players, playing significant time on both the offensive and defensive lines. Justin is in only his second year of organized football. This kid continues to get better each day, as if that football light bulb has just gone off."

St. Edward (0-1) at Taylorville (0-1)

When: Saturday, 1 p.m.

Previous meeting: Taylorville 26, St. Edward 14 (2021 at St. Edward)

About the Green Wave: The Green Wave look to get back on track after a 49-14 loss to Platteville (Wisconsin), a team that was playing its second game of the season already. St. Edward coach Mike Rolando liked the way linebacker Chris Andrews played. He made 10 tackles in Week 1. "That was his first game starting at outside linebacker," Rolando pointed out. Junior Nolan Pomeroy received high marks for his play on both sides of the ball. "Nolan blocking on the line and playing middle linebacker, he played well on both sides," Rolando said. Senior Jason Garcia also had a strong game at defensive tackle and offensive tackle. "Jason played very well on both sides of the ball," Rolando added.

About the Tornadoes: "Taylorville beat us last year, but it was a pretty even game," Rolando said. "We are hoping we can establish a run game to set up our pass game." Taylorville, out of the Apollo Conference and with an enrollment more than double St. Edward, lost to Mt. Vernon 40-0 in Week 1.

Streamwood (0-1, 0-1) at Larkin (0-1, 0-1)

When: Friday, 7 p.m., Memorial Field, Elgin

Previous meeting: **Streamwood** 30, Larkin 19 (2021 at Streamwood)

About the **Sabres**: In addition to Jaiden Thomas running the ball 16 times for 116 yards against **Bartlett**, the **Sabres** received strong play from Christian Clark, Chris Marquez, Jaiden Rumble and Kyle Thompson. Clark had 3 solo tackles, 1 assist, 3 tackles for loss and sack and a safety. Marquez had 2 solos, 8 assisted tackles and 1 tackle for loss, while Rumble had 3 solos, 7 assists and 1 tackle for loss. Thompson finished with 4 solos and 6 assists.

About the **Royals**: The **Royals** opened the 2022 season with a 28-0 loss to Glenbard East. "Week 2 we play another opponent that was a playoff contender last season," **Streamwood** coach Keith McMaster said. "They are talented and have skill all over the field. We'll need to pursue the ball defensively and clean some things up on offense."

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