

Press Clippings - 3/21/2024

- Daily Herald -

U-46 board honors 10 student musicians

By: Tara Burghart, Elgin Area School District

Date: March 20, 2024



The Elgin Area School District U-46 board recently honors 10 high school musicians with an “Accent Achievement” for their outstanding achievement. Students from Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin and Streamwood High Schools were honored March 18 by the U-46 board for their outstanding achievements as musicians. Pictured with the students are (back row, far left) Jamie Giraldo, U-46’s Fine Arts Coordinator; Larkin High Principal Krystal Bush (in blue jacket); and Elgin High School Principal Jamie Crose (in black jacket).

Board’s ‘Accent on Achievement’ program also recognizes Board Certified Teachers

Ten Elgin Area **School District U-46** high school students were recognized by the board on Monday, March 18, with an “Accent on Achievement” for their outstanding achievements as musicians.

Eight of the students participated in the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) competitive audition process to be named All-State Musicians, the highest musical achievement for high schoolers in Illinois. Selected students performed at the ILMEA’s annual music education conference in Peoria in late January.

The other two students being honored were selected to play in the pit orchestra of the All-State Production of “She Kills Monsters” on the campus of Illinois State University in Normal in early January. The students submitted audition recordings to the Illinois High School Theatre Festival and were selected from hundreds of submissions from around the state.

“We offer robust musical programs and opportunities to students in U-46,” said Jaimie Giraldo, U-46 Coordinator of Fine Arts. “Our dedicated music teachers provide

inspiration and guidance, and these talented students are turning into superior musicians.”

The board recognized the following students with “Accent on Achievement” certificates:

Bartlett High School: Kara Hagan, senior, All-State Chorus, Tenor

Elgin High School: Seniors Anthony “Ira” Cortes and Edward Power, Future Music Educators Symposium

Larkin High School: Ayaka Vieira, sophomore, All-State Orchestra, Violin; Aidan Klapperich, sophomore, All-State Band, Trombone

South Elgin High School: Ruby Montgomery, junior, Honors Chorus, Soprano I; Isabella Huynh, senior, All-State Chorus, Soprano I; and Kiera Moore, senior, All-State Chorus, Alto II

Streamwood High School: David Burmann, junior, All-State Production, Pit Orchestra, Clarinet and Bass Clarinet; and Sarah Beth Ballenger, junior, All-State Production, Pit Orchestra, Violin



South Elgin High English teacher Brittany Hennessey, far left, is honored by the U-46 board on Monday, March 18, for becoming a National Board Certified Teacher, the highest credential in the teaching profession. Gisselle Moreira, second from left, a Hill Crest Elementary fourth-grade Dual language teacher, was honored for renewing her certification. Superintendent Suzanne Johnson, far right, and board member Kate Thommes, are also pictured.

In addition, **South Elgin High School** English teacher Brittany Hennessey was honored for becoming a National Board Certified Teacher, the highest credential in the teaching profession.

“I always look for ways to improve my teaching, and I pursued the National Board Certification as a personal challenge for myself,” Hennessey said. “It helped me to be a

more reflective teacher and to verbalize the why of what I'm teaching.”

National Board Certification is a self-reflective form of professional learning that defines and recognizes accomplished teaching. The initial certification can take a teacher one to three years to complete; a teacher must go through a process to maintain their certificate every five years to keep it active.

Gisselle Moreira, a fourth-grade Dual Language teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School, was also recognized for recently renewing her National Board Certification.

U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the district encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 34,000 preschoolers through 12th graders attend the 55 district schools and programs. To learn more, visit www.u-46.org, or follow the district on Facebook and Twitter.

- Daily Southtown Sports -

Baseball and local scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

By: Josh Krockey

Date: March 20, 2024



Marian Catholic's Matthew Gonzalez looks up after connecting on a pitch against Tinley Park during a nonconference game in Tinley Park on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

High school and local college results and highlights from the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County coverage areas.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
HIGH SCHOOLS

BASEBALL

Andrew 14, Lindblom 0 (5 innings)
Andrew (5-0): Logan Randle 2 runs, 2 RBIs.
Aurora Christian 19, Newark 4 (4 innings)
Aurora Christian (3-1): Henry Hinkle 2 runs, 4 RBIs.
Fenwick 8, Libertyville 2
Hoffman Estates 14, **Elgin** 0 (5 innings)
Kankakee 4, Homewood-Flossmoor 3
H-F (4-1): Arthur Stamps 2 RBIs.
Larkin 5, Dundee-Crown 4
Larkin (1-2): Carter Novelli 2 RBIs.
Leo 22, Corliss 1 (2 innings)
Marist 4, St. Laurence 3
Marist (1-2): Aidan Finn (W) 6 IP, 4 H, 0 ER.
Mendota 14, Indian Creek 3 (5 innings)
Mount Carmel 6, Ogden International 5
Mount Carmel (2-2): Kevin Zanin GW RBI in bottom 7th.
Rich Township 8, Eisenhower 4
Rich Township (1-3-1): Bryson Smith HR, 3 RBIs.
Richmond-Burton 16, St. Edward 6 (6 innings)
Tinley Park 25, Marian Catholic 15 (5 innings)
Washington 10, Ag. Science 0

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BASEBALL

Andrew 7, Mount Carmel 4
Andrew (4-0): Jacob Miller 3 RBIs.
Argo 16, Curie 4 (5 innings)
Aurora Central Catholic 9, West Chicago 8 (8 innings)
ACC (3-2): Carson Bahrey GW RBI in bottom 8th.
Aurora Christian 13, Marmion 12
Aurora Christian (2-1): Jack Burns 3 RBIs.
Barrington 7, Lake Zurich 6 (6 innings)
Beecher 2, Chicago Christian 1
Beecher (1-1): Nathan Diachenko RBI.
Bolingbrook 12, Metea Valley 9
Bremen 8, Calumet Christian (Ind.) 7
Coal City 3, Sandwich 1
Downers Grove North 11, Oswego East 10 (5 innings)
Evergreen Park 13, Hancock 0 (5 innings)

Evergreen (4-0): Cadyn Kummer 4 RBIs.
Gardner-South Wilmington 16, Illinois Lutheran 1 (5 innings)
Geneva 18, **South Elgin** 3 (4 innings)
Grant 16, Woodstock North 0
Highland Park 10, Zion-Benton 0 (6 innings)
Homewood-Flossmoor 8, Marian Catholic 7
H-F (4-0): Arthur Stamps 2 RBIs.
Hope Academy 3, De La Salle 0 (8 innings)
Kaneland 9, Romeoville 7
Kaneland (1-0): Parker Violet HR.
Lake Forest 9, Vernon Hills 1
Lake Forest (1-1): Callum Morrison (W) 9 Ks.
Lakes 13, Harvard 0 (5 innings)
Lakes (3-0): Spencer Kennaman 2 RBIs.
Libertyville 4, Glenbrook South 3
Libertyville (2-0-1): Josh Holst 3 RBIs.
Naperville Central 7, Batavia 2
Naperville Central (1-2): Troy Kashul 3 RBIs.
Naperville North 7, Wheaton St. Francis 4
Naperville North (1-0): Zach Bava 3 RBIs.
Oak Forest 14, Kenwood 3 (5 innings)
Oak Forest (2-1): Mateo Gamboa 5 RBIs.
Oak Lawn 15, Morton 0 (5 innings)
Oak Lawn (2-2): Kyle Bader 4 RBIs.
Oregon 11, Indian Creek 0 (6 innings)
Plano 12, Genoa-Kingston 1 (6 innings)
Prospect 6, Jacobs 4
Jacobs (1-1): Luke Gormsen HR.
Providence 16, Joliet Central 5
Providence (1-0): Jackson Smith 2 HRs.
Reavis 11, Bloom 1
Reavis (3-1): Blake Stefanek HR.
St. Laurence 4, Maine South 0
St. Laurence (3-0): Declan Musil (W) 7 Ks.
Sandburg 19, Eisenhower 2 (5 innings)
Shepard 7, Hinsdale South 6
Stagg 6, Richards 5
Stagg (5-1): Sebastian Talaga HR.
Stillman Valley 14, Hinckley-Big Rock 5
Sycamore 4, Burlington Central 2
Burlington Central (2-1): Michael Person HR.

T.F. South 15, Peotone 0 (4 innings)
Tinley Park 21, Kankakee 2 (4 innings)
Waubonsie Valley 7, Plainfield Central 5
Waubonsie (2-0): Ryan Morton 2 RBIs.
Wauconda 9, Marengo 5
Wauconda (2-1): Jackson Rudolph 2 RBIs.
West Aurora 16, East Aurora 0 (4 innings)
DO IT STEVIE'S WAY TOURNAMENT
Lockport 10, St. Rita 3
Lockport (4-0): Justin VanderTuuk 2 RBIs.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Carmel d. Lake Forest 28-26, 25-22
Carmel (1-1): Michael Schofield 12 kills, 7 aces.
Deerfield d. Antioch 25-15, 25-18
Elgin d. St. Edward 25-17, 25-19
Glenbard West d. Stevenson 25-10, 25-13
Homewood-Flossmoor d. Richards 25-11, 25-11
Lake Park d. West Aurora 22-25, 25-18, 26-24
Larkin d. Round Lake 25-19, 25-14
Lincoln-Way East d. Hinsdale Central 25-17, 25-19
Lincoln-Way East (1-0): Trey Marek 10 kills, 5 digs.
Lockport d. Lemont 25-9, 25-10
Lyons d. Brother Rice 25-20, 25-19
Marian Catholic d. Shepard 28-26, 25-17
Oak Forest d. Bloom 25-15, 25-14, 25-22
Stagg d. Oak Lawn 25-14, 18-25, 25-22
St. Laurence d. Reavis 23-25, 25-22, 25-11
Waukegan d. Fenton 25-20, 25-17

GIRLS SOCCER

Aurora Central Catholic 1, IMSA 0
ACC (2-1): Maddie Berry goal.
Bartlett 4, Jacobs 0
Dundee-Crown 2, **Elgin** 0
Dundee-Crown (4-0): Rylie Mensik goal.
Fenwick 2, De La Salle 1
Genoa-Kingston 4, Plano 2
Grayslake Central 1, Mundelein 1
Hampshire 4, Woodstock 1
Highland Park 2, Carmel 0

Lake Zurich 6, Cary-Grove 0
Lake Zurich (4-0): Sydney Arendarczyk 3 goals.
Minooka 3, Neuqua Valley 1
Naperville North 4, Downers Grove North 0
Naperville North (3-1-1): Annie Chang goal.
Providence 9, Trinity 0
St. Viator 2, Sandburg 0
South Elgin 3, Conant 1
South Elgin (3-0): Nevaeh Gyurko 2 goals.
Vernon Hills 4, Grant 0
Vernon Hills (2-1-1): Emily Hammond 2 goals.
Warren 3, Wauconda 0
Waubonsie Valley 1, Hinsdale Central 0
Wheaton Academy 3, Antioch 0
DEKALB BARB FEST TOURNAMENT
Yorkville 2, Plainfield East 0
Rockford Guilford 5, **Larkin** 1
West Chicago 2, West Aurora 1
REAVIS WINDY CITY RAM CLASSIC
Championship Semifinals
Lincoln-Way East 1, Lincoln-Way West Central 0 (SO)
Lockport 4, Lincoln-Way West 1
Fifth Place Bracket
Andrew 1, Oak Forest 0
Glenbrook South 3, Lemont 0
Consolation Semifinals
Homewood-Flossmoor 1, Plainfield South 0
Addison Trail 4, Mother McAuley 3 (SO)
Ninth Place Bracket
Romeoville 2, Marist 1 (SO)
ST. CHARLES ROSE AUGSBURG-DRACH INVITATIONAL
St. Charles North 3, Hersey 1
Crystal Lake Central 3, St. Charles East 1
WHEATON NORTH KICKOFF TOURNAMENT
Metea Valley 3, Glenbard West 0
Metea (4-0): Isabelle Leofanti 2 goals.
Wheaton North 2, Benet 1

SOFTBALL

Andrew 13, Romeoville 2 (5 innings)
Andrew (3-0-1): Maddie Hanik HR.

Aurora Central Catholic 16, Montini 6 (6 innings)
Crystal Lake Central 7, Grant 0
Elmwood Park 18, **Streamwood** 0
Evergreen Park 9, Crete-Monee 4
Evergreen (2-0): Lili Meierkort HR.
Gardner-South Wilmington 5, Illinois Lutheran 3
Genoa-Kingston 22, St. Edward 1 (4 innings)
Glenbard North 7, Benet 4
Grayslake Central 23, Lake Forest 0 (4 innings)
Hampshire 9, Harvard 3
Hampshire (2-1): Chloe Van Horn HR.
Harlem 2, Dundee-Crown 1
Jacobs 8, Schaumburg 1
Jacobs (1-1): Clare Piazza 3 RBIs.
Joliet Catholic 13, Morris 11 (8 innings)
JCA (1-0): Addison Rizzatto HR.
Joliet Central 20, Rich Township 19
Kaneland 8, Yorkville 4
Kaneland (1-0): Brynn Woods 2 RBIs.
Lake Park 9, Naperville Central 8
Larkin 13, Hoffman Estates 5
Larkin (2-3): Kaitlyn Neubert HR.
Lincoln-Way Central 12, Neuqua Valley 0 (5 innings)
Lincoln-Way Central (1-0): Lucy Cameron HR.
Lincoln-Way East 9, Plainfield North 1
Lincoln-Way East (3-1): Maddie Henry 2 HRs.
Lockport 7, Huntley 5
Lockport (3-0): Mikayla Cvitanovich 2 RBIs.
Marian Catholic 10, T.F. South 8
Marian (1-2): Giselle Gomez 2 RBIs.
Marist 11, Lemont 2
Marist (2-1): Bree Hanik 5 RBIs.
Metea Valley 15, Batavia 2 (5 innings)
Oak Forest 14, De La Salle 2 (6 innings)
Oak Forest (2-0): Annabelle Rush 5 RBIs.
Oak Lawn 7, Mother McAuley 2
Oak Lawn (1-1): Katie Casey 4 RBIs.
Oregon 10, Indian Creek 0 (5 innings)
Oswego 14, Downers Grove North 8 (5 innings)
Oswego (1-1): Kiyah Chavez HR.
Rolling Meadows 14, **Elgin** 1 (5 innings)

St. Charles East 14, Plainfield Central 6
St. Charles East (2-0): Katie Morgan 4 RBIs.
Sandburg 10, Reavis 0 (5 innings)
Sandwich 19, DeKalb 5 (6 innings)
Sandwich (1-0): Johanna Freemon 6 RBIs.
Tinley Park 7, Stagg 3
Warren 2, McHenry 1
Wauconda 10, Vernon Hills 2
Wauconda (3-0): Sophie Mantell 4 RBIs.
Wheaton Warrenville South 2, Naperville North 1
Wilmington 9, Yorkville Christian 6
BARRINGTON SPRING FLING
Antioch 6, Plainfield South 0
Antioch (4-1): Jacey Schuyler 15 Ks.
Barrington 13, Zion-Benton 0
To read the full article please click [here](#).

- Daily Herald -

High school sports scores for March 20

Date: March 20, 2024



St. Charles East's Mackenzie Loomis goes over the back of Fremd's Gwen Zimmerman in a girls soccer game in St. Charles on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Wednesday, March 20

Baseball

Aurora Christian 19, Newark 4

Downers Grove North 12, Plainfield East 2

Larkin 5, Dundee-Crown 4

Fenwick 8, Libertyville 2

Hoffman Estates 14, **Elgin** 0 (5 Inn.)
Richmond-Burton 16, St. Edward 6
Riverside-Brookfield 8, Hinsdale South 3
St. Francis 4, Timothy Christian 2
York 3, Glenbard East 0

Upcoming

Thursday, March 21

Baseball

Addison Trail at West Chicago, 4:30 p.m.
Batavia at Minooka, 4:30 p.m.
Benet at Wheaton North, 4:30 p.m.
Carmel at Palatine, 4:45 p.m.
DeKalb at Marmion Academy, 4:30 p.m.
Downers Grove North at Wheaton Warrenville South, 4:30 p.m.
Dundee-Crown at **Streamwood**, 4:30 p.m.
Elgin at Metea Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Fenton at Schaumburg, 4:30 p.m.
Geneva at Yorkville, 4:30 p.m.
Glenbard East at West Aurora, 4:30 p.m.
Glenbard West at **Bartlett**, 7 p.m.
Glenbrook South at Stevenson, 4:45 p.m.
Grant at Crystal Lake Central, 4:30 p.m.
Harvard at Crystal Lake South, 4:30 p.m.
Harvest Christian at Perfect Game-Memphis, TBA
Hersey at Jacobs, 4:30 p.m.
Hinsdale Central at Plainfield Central, 4:30 p.m.
Huntley at St. Charles East, 4:30 p.m.
Indian Creek at Aurora Central Catholic, 4:30 p.m.
Lake Zurich at Prospect, 4:30 p.m.
Lakes at Vernon Hills, 4:45 p.m.
Lincoln-Way East at Montini, 4:30 p.m.
Lockport at Downers Grove South, 4:30 p.m.
Maine East at Ridgewood, 4:30 p.m.
Maine South at Lane Tech, 4:30 p.m.
Maine West at Leyden, 4:30 p.m.
Naperville North at Oswego, 4:30 p.m.
Neuqua Valley at Oswego East, 4:30 p.m.
Prairie Ridge at Buffalo Grove, 4:30 p.m.
Providence Catholic at St. Charles North, 6 p.m.
Rockford Jefferson at Hampshire, 4:30 p.m.

Round Lake at **Larkin**, 4:30 p.m.
St. Edward at Rockford Lutheran, 4:30 p.m.
Westminster Christian at Northridge Prep, 4:30 p.m.
Willowbrook at Glenbard South, 4:30 p.m.
Softball
Aurora Christian at Indian Creek, 5:15 p.m.
Barrington Spring Fling, TBA
Benet at Wheaton Warrenville South, 4:30 p.m.
Christian Liberty at Woodlands Academy, 4:30 p.m.
Dundee-Crown at **Streamwood**, 4:30 p.m.
Elmwood Park at Maine East, 4:30 p.m.
Evanston at Carmel, 4:45 p.m.
Geneva at Wheaton Academy, 4:30 p.m.
Glenbard North at Glenbard South, 4:30 p.m.
Harvest Christian at Timothy Christian, 4:30 p.m.
Highland Park at Round Lake, 4:45 p.m.
Hinsdale Central at Glenbard East, 4:30 p.m.
Hinsdale South at Ridgewood, 4:30 p.m.
Jacobs at Schaumburg (DH), 4:30 p.m.
Larkin at Addison Trail, 4:30 p.m.
Maine South at Buffalo Grove, 4:45 p.m.
Montini at York, 4:30 p.m.
Naperville Central at Bolingbrook, 4:30 p.m.
Niles West at Elk Grove, 4:45 p.m.
Palatine at Stevenson, 4:45 p.m.
Prairie Ridge at Grayslake North, 4:45 p.m.
Prospect at Loyola, 4:45 p.m.
Resurrection at Maine West, 4:30 p.m.
Rosary at Lisle, 4:30 p.m.
St. Edward at St. Viator, 4:30 p.m.
Streamwood at Rolling Meadows, 4:30 p.m.
Waubonsie Valley at West Chicago, 4:30 p.m.
Wauconda at Marengo, 4:45 p.m.
Waukegan at Vernon Hills, 4:45 p.m.
West Aurora at Aurora Central Catholic, 4:30 p.m.

Girls soccer

Aurora Central Catholic at Indian Creek, 4:30 p.m.
Bartlett at Addison Trail, 6:30 p.m.
Benet at Nazareth, 4:30 p.m.
Burlington Central at Hersey Invite, 5 p.m.

Chesterton Academy at Harvest Christian, 5:30 p.m.
Conant at **Elgin**, 7 p.m.
Downers Grove North at Sandburg, 6:30 p.m.
Downers Grove South at York, 6:30 p.m.
Geneva at Neuqua Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Grayslake Central at Libertyville, 5:30 p.m.
Hampshire at **South Elgin**, 6:30 p.m.
Hinsdale South, Willowbrook at Reavis Windy City Classic, TBA
Jacobs at Grant, 6:15 p.m.
Lake Park, Montini at Glenbard South Raider Invite, 4:30 p.m.
Lake Zurich at Vernon Hills, 7:30 p.m.
Lakes at Woodstock, 4:30 p.m.
Larkin, West Aurora, West Chicago at DeKalb Barb Fest, TBA
Lisle at Chicago Hope Academy, 5 p.m.
Maine South at Fenwick, 5 p.m.
Maine West at Rolling Meadows, 4:45 p.m.
Niles West at Stevenson, 5 p.m.
Oswego East at Wheaton Warrenville South, 4:30 p.m.
Schaumburg Christian at Woodlands Academy, 4:30 p.m.
St. Charles East Augsburg-Drach Invite, TBA
St. Charles North Tournament TBA
St. Edward at IMSA, 4:45 p.m.
St. Viator at Dundee-Crown, 4:30 p.m.
Streamwood at Batavia, 6:30 p.m.
University at IC Catholic Prep, TBA
Warren at McHenry, 4:30 p.m.
Wauconda at Woodstock North, 4:30 p.m.
Westminster Christian at Rosary, 4:30 p.m.
Westmont at Little Village, 4:30 p.m.
Wheaton Academy at Cary-Grove, 5 p.m.

Boys track

Aurora Central Catholic, **Bartlett**, Conant, Glenbard East, Glenbard West, Hoffman Estates, **South Elgin**, St. Charles North at Batavia Bulldog Relays, 4:30 p.m.

Girls track

Addison Trail, **Bartlett**, Lake Park, Nazareth at Glenbard North, 5 p.m.
Aurora Central Catholic, Bartlett, Burlington Central, Glenbard East, Palatine, Rosary, **South Elgin**, West Aurora, West Chicago at Batavia Bulldog Relays, 4:30 p.m.

Girls lacrosse

Benet at Lyons, 6:15 p.m.

Buffalo Grove at Palatine, 6:30 p.m.
Cary-Grove/Crystal lake Co-op at Glenbrook North, 7 p.m.
Conant at Hinsdale Central, 6:30 p.m.
Downers Grove North at Marist, 6:30 p.m.
Geneva at Naperville Central, 6:30 p.m.
Hampshire at **Streamwood**, 5 p.m.
Hoffman Estates at Lake Zurich, 6:30 p.m.
Libertyville at Prospect, 7 p.m.
Mundelein at Deerfield, 5 p.m.
Neuqua Valley at Plainfield Co-op, 5:30 p.m.
Rolling Meadows at Burlington Central, 6:30 p.m.
Schaumburg at Huntley, 6 p.m.
Vernon Hills at Resurrection, 5:30 p.m.
Warren at Evanston, 6:30 p.m.
York at Montini, 5 p.m.

Boys tennis

Batavia at Waubonsie Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Belvidere North at Crystal Lake South, 4:30 p.m.
Elgin Academy at **Elgin**, 4:30 p.m.
Grant at Crystal Lake Central, 4:30 p.m.
Kaneland at Yorkville, 4 p.m.
Lisle at Timothy Christian, 4:30 p.m.
Niles West at Rolling Meadows, 4:30 p.m.
Plainfield Central at West Aurora, 4 p.m.
St. Francis at DePaul College Prep, 4:30 p.m.
St. Laurence at Aurora Central Catholic, 4:30 p.m.
Wheaton Academy at West Chicago, 4:30 p.m.

Boys volleyball

Bartlett at Geneva, 5:30 p.m.
Carmel at Mt. Carmel, 6 p.m.
Downers Grove South at Naperville North, 5:30 p.m.
Elgin Academy at St. Edward, 5 p.m.
Elmwood Park at Hinsdale South, 5:30 p.m.
Glenbard West at Lincoln-Way East, 5:30 p.m.
Lake Park at Schaumburg, 6 p.m.
Lake Zurich at Grayslake Central, 6 p.m.
Larkin at St. Viator, 6 p.m.
Libertyville at Antioch, 6:30 p.m.
Lyons at Wheaton Warrenville South, 6 p.m.

Maine East at Leyden, 5:30 p.m.
Maine West at Conant, 6 p.m.
Marmion Academy at Wheaton Academy, 6 p.m.
Nazareth at Montini, 6 p.m.
Rolling Meadows at Maine South, 6 p.m.
Waubonsie Valley at Oswego, 5:30 p.m.
West Aurora at Neuqua Valley, 5:30 p.m.
Wheaton Academy at Marmion Academy, 6 p.m.
Willowbrook at Glenbard South, 5:30 p.m.

Girls badminton

Barrington at Wheeling, 4:45 p.m.
East Aurora at **South Elgin**, 4:30 p.m.
Elgin at West Chicago, 4:30 p.m.
Fenton at **Larkin**, 4:30 p.m.
Fremd at Elk Grove, 4:45 p.m.
Geneva at West Aurora, 4:30 p.m.
Glenbard South at **Bartlett**, 4:30 p.m.
Glenbard West at Argo, 4:30 p.m.
Highland Park at Grant, 4:45 p.m.
Hinsdale Central at Downers Grove North, 4:30 p.m.
Hinsdale South, Lake Park, Naperville Central at Wheaton Warrenville South, 4:30 p.m.
Hoffman Estates at Hersey, 4:45 p.m.
Lake Forest at Warren, 4:45 p.m.
Maine South at Maine West, 4:30 p.m.
Metea Valley at Willowbrook Triangular, 4:30 p.m.
Palatine at Prospect, 4:45 p.m.
Schaumburg at Rolling Meadows, 4:45 p.m.
St. Charles East at Bartlett, 4:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Waukegan, 4:45 p.m.
Streamwood at Glenbard East, 4:30 p.m.
To read the full article please click [here](#).

- Daily Herald -
Elgin boy wins at inaugural Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation state championship
By: Margret Diaz
Date: March 20, 2024



Darek Diaz stands on the center podium during the Illinois kids Wrestling Federation state championship in Decatur, Illinois, on March 17, 2024

Darek Diaz of Elgin has been wrestling since he was 5 years old. Darek is an exceptional student at **Hillcrest Elementary School** and has an extremely bubbly personality.

Early in the year on Jan. 28, the Hillcrest Elementary student earned a national championship title, winning first place at Kids Folkstyle Nationals in Crown Point, Indiana, making him No. 1 in the U.S. for boys 10U division at 53 lbs.

This past weekend on March 16-17, Darek and fellow ISI Wrestling Club members traveled to Decatur, Illinois, for the inaugural Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation state championship where Darek earned first place.

That makes him No. 1 in Illinois for Intermediate Boys Division at 55 lbs.

Darek wrestled numerous matches for both of these tournaments without his opponents scoring a point on him. He went into these tournaments determined and confident with his skills.

Darek trains at least 5 times a week and watches an abundant amount of wrestling from Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation to college to Olympic level. Wrestling has been a part of his parents' lives. His dad, Sam Diaz, has been coaching Darek from the beginning of his career.

- Daily Herald - Boys volleyball: Scouting DuPage County and Fox area teams

By: Dave Hess

Date: March 20, 2024



Adam Graham is one of the returning starters back this year for defending state champion Glenbard West.

ADDISON TRAIL

The Blazers hope to improve on a 4-27 overall and 1-5 in the West Suburban Gold Conference behind returning seniors Nehemiah Varghese, Zach Morris, Jorge Molina and Francesco Giannone.

"We have a nice balance with a lot of senior leadership," said third year coach Jessica Clark. "We have some talented newcomers."

BARTLETT

Seniors Nick Ciolino, Reece Thompson, Yelcol Harewood and junior Manav Shah are back for coach Robert Schwantz (12 years) whose team went 23-12, 5-3 last year to take fourth in the Upstate Eight.

"We want to win the conference championship before it splits in two divisions and adds four teams," said Schwantz. "We want to go deep in the postseason and place at least three players on the all-conference team."

BENET

The Redwings return five seniors and three juniors from a team which was 7-1 in the East Suburban Catholic and advanced to the sectional finals losing to Glenbard South. Back for new coach Hector Cano are seniors Thomas Galbraith, Anthony Komick, Nick Gonnella, Andrew Stocker, Brendan Geraci and Dom Krzeczowski, and juniors Aris Maurukas, Reed Hefley and Jacob Olejnik. They will be joined by juniors Joseph Torrico, Ryan Pecak, Matt Swiatkowski, Shane Walsh and Benus Rauduve, and sophomore Lukas Carlson.

"Marist is the team to beat in the conference," said Cano. "We want to run various tempos and give our kids opportunities to grow and develop."

DOWNERS GROVE NORTH

The Trojans (29-10, 4-2) return seniors Adam Janowiak, Lincoln Geist and Gavin Reina along with juniors Aiden Akkawi and Quinn Leahy to a team that made the sectional finals. Coach Mark Wasik adds senior Tommy Krocza, junior Dylan Quinn and sophomore Aaron Grey.

"We lose both outside hitters but we reload with capable athletes," said Wasik. "This conference is mixed with top teams in the state."

DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH

The Mustangs (28-10, 6-0) were undefeated in the WSC Gold behind seniors Jordan Tan and Connor Lynch, and juniors Matt Piotrowski and Jordan Parrot for coach Kurt Steuer who welcomes sophomore Linas Kasperiunas.

"We are returning varsity experience," said the Mustangs coach, who is 276-125 in 11 years. "We are incorporating new setters to run our offense. They are gaining experience at the varsity against top teams in the state."

FENTON

The Bison (6-28, 0-8 in the UEC) bring back seniors Ramiro Espericueta, John Contreras, Josshymart Torres, John Makewicki, Alexsis Castro, Davide Vallone and Aiden Cano along with juniors Lorenzo Cano and Daniel Garfias.

"We want to win 20 of 33 matches, play in a regional final and finish in the top three in the conference," said third year coach Adam Bloniarz. "We have a new group of juniors and we hope to mesh with the returnees. We have had successes at the junior varsity and freshman level."

GENEVA

Size and experience are prevalent for Geneva in 2024. Jack Mally, a 6-6 senior who has committed to Loyola of Chicago, was an all-DuKane Conference performer in 2023. The Ramblers are currently ranked 10th in the nation.

Mally will be joined by 6-5 senior Michael Loberg (all-conference in 2023) and 6-5 Ryan Fioresi. Other returning starters include senior Rocco Lampiasi and junior Eric Schrerer while Kellen Prysmiki is looking for playing time.

The Vikings (19-18, 3-3) lost to Fremd in the regional finals a year ago.

"We should be very competitive and challenge for the conference championship," said coach Stephanie Hennig. "We want to make a postseason run and win the program's second regional championship."

GLENBARD EAST

The Rams (25-13, 7-1) lost in the regional final to Lyons Township, who placed second in the state.

They will be led by 6-8 senior Aidan Welton, a two-year all-conference performer and a George Mason recruit.

Senior setter Jack Junior, a three-year starter, and seniors Danny Overlin, Brayden Smith and Payton Strieve are back for coach Kelly Markworth who adds senior Lance Mueller and freshman Glorie Emma

"A majority of starters are back which will support the new talented players." said Markworth.

GLENBARD WEST

The Hilltoppers (40-2) defeated West Suburban Conference Silver rival Lyons Township to win the 2023 state title.

Glenbard West returns all-state senior Adam Graham. Senior all-conference performers Xzavian Willett, Andrew Ellis and Jack Anderson also return.

"We want to go point by point," said Christine Giunta Mayer (557-143 record in 19 years). "We want to maintain a high standard and have a strong mentality. We want to stay in control every practice and game. We play in a difficult conference. Three of the four teams in the Final 4 were from the conference."

HINSDALE CENTRAL

The Red Devils lost in the sectional finals to conference foe Lyons Township a year ago under coach Tom Gilbert, who fashions a 58-20 career mark in three years. They are led by all-state outside hitter senior Matt Ruth.

Senior Omer Naveed and junior Harry Hughes are back as all-West Suburban Conference players, and sophomores Ken Reodica, John Lynch, Everett Howorth and Dane Beringer join the team.

"We graduated nine seniors and have a lot of new players," said Gilbert. "We are beginning a rebuild. Glenbard West is talented again. The conference is arguably the toughest in the state."

HINSDALE SOUTH

Seventh year coach Joe Lencioni returns all-conference players seniors Quinn Marron and Nate Ockrim and sophomore Tomas Lobias.

HUNTLEY

The Red Raiders begin their eighth season as a program. They are the lone school in the Fox Valley Conference and public school in McHenry County to have a program.

The Raiders return seniors Adrian Martinez, Lucas Miller, Diyas Seitov and sophomore Barsbek Ulanbekuulu.

"We have made tremendous growth as a program," said coach Gerry Marchand. "We won six games a year ago and we hope to improve on that."

LAKE PARK

The Lancers, who won the DuKane Conference with a perfect 6-0 slate and were 25-13 overall, lost to Conant in the regional finals.

Under the tutelage of Brian Fischer, returning are senior Dylan Brinkley along with juniors Carter Gibbons, Dylan Roszak and Luke Bonacci. Junior Mike Ogorzalek will attempt to crack the rotation.

"We want to improve on last season's success," said Fischer. "We want to win a regional title and compete for another conference championship."

NAPERVILLE CENTRAL

The Redhawks (13-23, 3-5 DVC) return senior Zach Hurd while adding senior Aayush Ghorad, juniors Logan McGrath and Ryder Erdmann, and sophomore Robbie Ruthig.

"We have talented younger players who are transitioning to the varsity level," said coach Roger Strausberger. "They will have key roles and impact this season. It is a bigger team than we have had in the past. It comes down to senior leadership, ball control and setting ability for our underclassmen. They need to step up."

MONTINI

Youth will be served for the Broncos (5-22, 0-6) in 2024.

Senior Hunter Ross and sophomore Nolan Kwiatkowski are back to go with sophomore Michael May and freshmen Fred Conforti and Charlie Brunson.

"This is the youngest team I have had in eight years," said coach Brian Opaka. "We will start two freshmen and two sophomores. We are not very deep. We hope to finish in the middle of the pack in the conference."

NEUQUA VALLEY

The Wildcats (14-20, 5-3) won a DVC co-championship under coach Erich Mendoza, who has 372 wins in 15 years. He welcomes back seniors Christian Manabat and Quinn Snyder and junior Noah Cullen.

"We graduated our whole starting lineup and have a young team," said Mendoza. "We want to improve on our overall and win a regional. We haven't won a regional since 2019. Our JV teams have had a lot of success and we hope to continue that success at the varsity level."

ST. CHARLES EAST

New coach Matt Caputo, who was the Saints assistant for eight years, takes over after an 0-6 record in the DuKane. Seniors Andrew Heilers, Adi Nakarani and Nihar Patel are back along with juniors Alex Temple, Mason Wise and Brady Warden.

"We were young in 2023 with only two seniors," said Caputo. "We want to use the experience we gained last spring to improve overall record. We have an experienced group of seniors and we welcome several junior impact players."

ST. EDWARD

St. Edward is looking to improve a 6-18 record behind seniors Josh Pottorff, Kaden Dawson, Josh Schelonka, Caleb Groves, Patrick Johnson, Jeremy Roldan and junior Robby Sommer.

"We have a number of two-year varsity players with experience," said coach Nicole Skrzypchak. "We have a presence on the court and a solid senior class. We are excited for the new conference (Chicagoland). We are excited to face some familiar teams and some unfamiliar teams."

ST. FRANCIS

The Spartans (28-10) lost to Hinsdale Central in the regional finals a year ago.

Seniors Gavin Gonzalez, Nick Madden, Eddie Muller, Chris Rojas, Krish Manek, JT McCormick and Kyle Zediker along with newcomers are seniors Aaron Cook, Mike Powell, Mike Globe and Matt Shales lead the way.

"Guys are pushing themselves to play at a high level," said coach Mike Lynch. "We will be fun to watch and should improve throughout the season. We have the majority of our lineup back. We want to be conference champs and make a deep run in the state playoffs."

STREAMWOOD

The Sabres (16-16, 4-5) took sixth in the Upstate Eight last year for coach Michelle Mueller. She has all-conference junior Heewon Yang back along with seniors Brandon Voravong, Cristan Sandoval, John Garcia, Danny Trifonav, Martid Prialgauska and

Ashray Kumar. on a veteran team.

"We have a combination of experience and good young talent, " said Mueller. "That is a great combination. We want to make a solid run come playoff time."

TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN

The Trojans start their first year in the Chicagoland Christian Conference. Timothy finished 6-2 in its final season in the Metro Suburban.

Coach David Barker's troops lost to Wheaton Warrenville South in the regional quarterfinals.

Back are all-conference performers seniors Ty Van Latten and Jon Tameling along with juniors Owen Wise and Trevor Munk.

"We want to win the conference and advance in the state playoffs," said Barker. "We are ready to compete against multiple bigger schools."

WAUBONSIE VALLEY

The Warriros lost nine players from a 2023 team which posted a 16-18 record, 4-4 in the DuPage Valley Conference.

Seniors Amr Alomari and Sujhan Gopinath, junior AJ Ruffin are back, joined by seniors Rohan Ambavaran and Ben Watts and sophomore Chris Johnson.

"The DVC is always tough," said 12th year coach Noel Soto. "I don't think this season will be any different. Every team has opportunity to win conference and make a run in the playoffs. We will have some growing pains at the beginning of the season. We hope to put the pieces together. It will be a fun group to watch and develop."

WHEATON WARRENVILLE SOUTH

Veteran coach Bill Schreier welcomes back all six starters including 3 all-staters from a team which posted a 21-15 record and 4-2 DuKane Conference slate (second). Schreier is 688-218 mark.

Back are all-staters seniors Joey Kelly and Joey Kohley along with sophomore Simon Bratt, seniors Quinn Harty and Trevor Paige and junior Mergen Purevsuren.

Senior Brian Dickinson and junior Mark Gheorghita also are in the mix for playing time.

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"We had growing pains last season with younger players," said the Tigers coach. "We want to get back on track with a good mix of seniors and underclassmen. We have a ton

of experience. We hope to reap the benefits. We are on the verge of a very competitive season."

WEST AURORA

Grant Marlowe takes over and will look to seniors Nicholas Feder, Cameron Jarrell (Augustana), Braeden Zant and Aaron Walker, and juniors Alex Gove and Evan Camp to lead the way.

West Aurora (23-15, 7-3 in the Southwest Prairie) took second in conference before losing to Downers Grove South in the regional finals.

"We want to compete for a championship opportunity available to us no matter if it is a conference championship, a win in the state playoffs our home invite or any highly competitive tournament we take part in," said Marlowe. "Any number of teams could be near the top of the conference standings."

WILLOWBROOK

The Warriors (5-20, 2-3) lost to Glenbard East in the first round of the regionals, and bring back seniors Carter Ferguson and Andrew Giesinski.

"We want to win the West Suburban Conference Gold which will help us prepare us for the state tournament," said coach Ed Delacruz.

YORK

The Dukes (30-7, 3-3) have six returning starters and 10 players overall, leading to some lofty goals in 2024.

All-staters sophomore Ben Brown, and seniors Luke Shorter and Jack Bute are back along with all-conference selection Logan Rice plus seniors Zach Brown, Jack Zitek, Collin Harrington, Owen Reifenrath, Abe Cobalero and Charlie Meadows.

York was upset in the regionals by West Aurora last year.

"The top three teams in the state are in the WSC Silver," said coach Ken Dowdy (247-154 mark in 13 years). "It is hands down the best conference in the state. We are lucky to participate in it. Our schedule is tougher. We are playing elite teams like Riverside Brookfield and Lincoln-Way East and in the Best in the Midwest Tournament in Indianapolis."

- Daily Herald - Boys tennis: Scouting DuPage County and Fox teams

By: Dave Hess

Date: March 20, 2024



TJ Stras, left and Erik Warner have state experience for Batavia.

BARTLETT

New coach Craig Cichowicz returns senior William Qualls.

Newcomers for the Hawks, which finished fifth in the Upstate Eight Conference last year, are sophomores Tej Patel, Ayyan Qureshi, Dylan Alvarez and Keshav Barot.

"It is a transformational year for our program," said the **Bartlett** coach. "Every spot in the lineup is up for grabs. "Having played in the IHSA state tournament multiple times, I know what it takes to make it to the state tournament."

BATAVIA

The Bulldogs will be spearheaded by seniors TJ Stras and Erik Warner. The doubles duo qualified for the Class 2A state tournament two years ago.

Others returners are seniors Andrew Dorman, Denny Platt and Nick Maskell along with junior Eric Otten and sophomore Kush Adhvaryu.

Newcomers include Thomas Alster, Braden Cox, Oliver Bernard and Nathan Hiller along with sophomore Lucas Hilbert.

"Wheaton North has won four straight DuKane championships," said coach Brad Nelson. "They are the team to beat and considered the favorites until someone knocks them off. St. Charles East and St. Charles North return strong players and Wheaton Warrenville South has a talent. The race this season in the conference should be a little closer."

BENET

The Redwings, runner-up in Class 1A to Chicago Latin, move to 2A in 2024. Juniors Zach Bobochak and Hugh Davis are the defending Class 1A doubles state champs.



Benet's Hugh Davis, won a Class 1A state title last year in doubles. The redwings are moving up to Class

2A this spring.

Junior Patrick Burke placed in the top 12 in singles a year ago.

Others back are seniors Michael Campione and Alex Brown, junior Grant Perry and sophomore Peter Charuk.

Freshman Charlie Flavin hopes to crack the lineup.

"Moving to 2A is a lot to live up to," said coach Michael Hand. "We have a tough schedule to create an environment for success. The conference (East Suburban Catholic) is a tough conference with seven of the top eight players returning."

CARY-GROVE

The Trojans return junior state qualifier Bryce Schectman from a team that posted a fifth-place finish in the Fox Valley Conference and a second-place effort in the Cary-Grove 2A sectional.

Other returners are seniors Nate Deal, Noah Marrano, Derek Passaglia, Nick Veatch and Gavin Henriques along with sophomore Chris Ptaszek.

Newcomers seeking court time are senior Landon Johnson, juniors Jack and Lincoln Karlovsky, Ignacy Nowik and Leo Petropoulos and freshman Owen Lonergan.

"With seven returning players the players are eager to prove themselves," said coach Amanda Schuelte, in her 18th year. "We need people to step up and fill open spots. (Prairie Ridge) has to be the favorite. Huntley and Jacobs will be as competitive as always. We hope Bryce can get another shot at state."

DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH

The Mustangs are gunning for a fifth consecutive West Suburban Conference Gold championship.

Senior Sam Plys, committed to Hillsdale College, tied for 13th in the state in 2A singles a year ago. Senior Paul Spang, who will play tennis at Grinnell, is also back for coach Josh Forst.

"We have a blend of experience with Plys and Spang along with some good up and coming players," Frost said. "We compete at the highest level with many tournaments in the Chicago suburbs which gets us ready for the IHSA series."

CRYSTAL LAKE SOUTH

The Gators, under new coach Mark Scheuerich, would like to improve on a 6-12 overall record and 2-6 mark in the Fox Valley Conference.

Senior Jack Dacy was a state qualifier in Class 1A a year ago. Others back for South are senior AJ Smith and sophomores Eryk Bucior and Zeke Boldman.

"We want to play competitive matches in the FVC despite losing several key starters from last season," said the Gators coach. "We want some of our players to make a strong run and qualify for the state playoffs."

DUNDEE-CROWN

Coach Yuto Tskuida believes this is the best team he has had in 5 years in Carpentersville.

Back for the Chargers are seniors Nick Miller, Ben Riggio and Braeden Jones along with junior Casey McKinney and sophomores Cavan Svec and Pranav Saravanan.

Newcomers joining the mix are freshmen Aarav Shah and Sebastian Llavona.

"This is one of the strongest teams I have had since I have been here," said Tsukida. "I want to push them to be successful. We hope to have amazing results in the conference and sectionals."

ELGIN

The Maroons were fourth in the Upstate Eight Conference a year ago, and they return senior Ayush Sanghavi and junior Aadi Sanghavi.

"We want to have a good conference season before the new schedule begins next season," said coach Sonepheth Rattana. "We want to improve every day since I have only two returners from last year's varsity team."

FENTON

Jeff Porto, in his 22nd season, returns seniors Mike Melnyk and Damian Micor along with juniors Federico Martell and Andrei Toader, and sophomores Sean Saltenberger, Kacper Grych, Angel Lemus and Peter Szostek. The Bison add freshmen Brayden Lavaric, Garrett Wawczak, Alejandro Robles and Chris Bednarz.

GENEVA

Junior state qualifier Tyler Masoncup is the top returnee for the Vikings and is joined by seniors Zach Graham, Luke Hogan and Gaving Bryant along with juniors Xander Mercado and Tyler Hogan.

Newcomers include seniors Quinn Kennedy and Jacob Hollis, juniors Connor Levin and Grayson Gaerline, sophomore Kirill Lunin and freshman Aaron Masoncup.

GLENBARD EAST

Sophomore Finn Talbot qualified for the 2A state finals as a freshman. Others back include seniors Ben Polyak, Deklin Artelt, Tommy Gill and Chase Palmeri, junior Alex Cook and sophomore Arnav Mehta.

The Rams would like improve on a second-place Upstate Eight finish and a fourth-place effort in 2A sectional action.

"We have tough competition in the conference and want to contend for a conference championship," said 11th year coach Steve Hoogerheide. "We want to have fun, improve our tennis games and strengthen our friendships among teammates. We want our athletes to be on a trajectory to be men of a character beyond high school."

GLENBARD SOUTH

The Raiders, under the guidance of Wade Hardtke, are the defending Upstate Eight Conference champs.

South returns junior state qualifier Jordan Abbott. Also back for Hardtke's troops are senior Miles Kubik and junior Jon Park. Seniors Nathan Puzon, Al Slaughter, Jack Biancalana, junior Haris Basha and sophomore Ashrith Valluri also are looking for spots in the lineup.

"We have three returning players and this is a rebuilding year," said Hardtke. "Glenbard

East is the front-runner. We want to compete for the top part of the conference."

GLENBARD WEST

The Hilltoppers, fifth in the West Suburban a year ago, return seniors Mike Fox and Jim Gilbert along with junior Garrett French and sophomores Charles MacDonald and Nick Harding.

"We hope to finish somewhere in the middle of a tough conference," said coach Tad Keely. "We are growing as a team."

HAMPSHIRE

Junior Braden Koffen is back as a state qualifier as a sophomore.

Others returning are seniors Caed Steuber, Ryan Regalado, Nicky Adam, Nicholas Roeder and Phoenix Phelps.

"We want to develop mentally and physically," said coach Dylan Clark. "We want to finish in the top four in the FVC tournament. This is the first year that outcome seems within grasp. We want to place at sectional and send players to the state tournament."

HINSDALE CENTRAL

The Red Devils are seeking a third straight Class 2A state championship.

Senior catpain Alex Kotarski, a runner-up in Class 2A singles a year ago, will play in college at Xavier.

The junior duo of Nathan Hernandez and Bodie Tescher were third in the state in doubles action.

Senior Aidan Hernandez, a Davidson recruit, hopes to help the Devils to the three-peat. Newcomers hoping to break into the lineup are junior Zuhayr Khan and freshmen Barry Zhy, Patrick Wand, Richard Zhang and Amir Khan.

"We want to win a third straight championship and win the conference and sectional again," said 15th year coach John Naisbitt

HINSDALE SOUTH

The Hornets were second in the West Suburban Conference Gold, won a Class 1A sectional and took 14th at state.

Junior state qualifiers Zeke Bisharat, Ansh Desai and Rohan Bansal, as is junior Ethan Pan.

"Downers Grove South will be tough in the conference as usual," said coach Steve Snider. "We want to finish in the top five in the state."

JACOBS

Jon Betts begins his 19th season as the Golden Eagles coach.

Jacobs was a perfect 8-0 in Fox Valley Conference regular season action and was runner-up to Prairie Ridge in the conference tournament.

Junior Augie Nelson and sophomore Soham Kalara are returning state qualifiers. Returners include seniors Austin Dinh, Liam Hulewicz and Sam Penna along with juniors Ryan Fulton and Rudra Rathop.

Senior Nicholas Haaser, junior Brennen Miller and freshmen Ronnav Deshmukh and Jack Soto will also be in mix.

"This could be an interesting season and there is a good deal of young talent in the Fox Valley Conference," said Betts. "Dundee-Crown, Prairie Ridge and Huntley return a lot of young talent. PR returns much of their 2023 championship squad. Cary-Grove has solid talent and one of the state's best coaches. We graduated four starters from last spring and have a few promising newcomers. We are excited for the opportunity to be compete for the FVC title."

LAKE PARK

The Lancers were sixth in the DuKane Conference and sixth at the 2A sectional in 2023. Seniors Oliver Kubicki, Mikolaj Bratko, Leo Coulolias and Alexander Babiarz and junior Kyle Petrovich are back, joined by freshman Michael Cozzi.

"This is the most competitive team I have coached since I joined the program," said Christian Pawlak, in his third year. "We hope to finish in the top half of the conference."

LARKIN

After a winless year, 15 players return with varsity experience: seniors Gorden Xaykosy, Jayden Hernandez, John Catalan, Ayden Fender, Abraham Hernandez and Jose Flores, juniors Alexis Alonso, Carlos Alarcon, Brian Espinoza, Jonathan Lopez, and sophomores Carlos Astudillo, Marco Montes De Oca, Jonathan Bermudez and Edwin Perez.

The Royals also have newcomers senior Gustavo Montilla, juniors Martin Castillo and Fernando Pacheco, sophomores Roberto Hernandez, Santiago Ruiz and Jesus Sanchez, and freshman Daniel Ortiz-Gonzalez.

"We hope Gorden Xaykosy, Jayden Hernandez, Ayden Fender, John Catalan and Alexis Alonso will all place higher in the brackets (Upstate Eight)," coach Zaida DeBeck said "We have a well rounded group of gentlemen who have a love for tennis."

MARMION

The Cadets are led by junior Ben Graft, who returns as the runner-up in singles action in Class 1A.

Marmion was third in the Catholic League, second in the sectional and 10th in the state last year.

Back for the Cadets are seniors Brady Sartain and Aaron Sudman along with juniors Sam Pall, Sam Lin, Jed Koss, Cam Dempsey, AJ Mimford and Owen Theriault.

Newcomers are sophomores John Sitar and Owen Cousins,.

"Out goals are top three in the conference, top two in the sectionals and top eight in the state," said Brian Cole, in his sixth year.

METEA VALLEY

The Mustangs, were fourth in the DuPage Valley Conference and third at sectionals last year. Senior singles Class 2A state qualifier Akshay Baid is the top returner, and he has company with senior Jack Jordan, junior Mihir Arya, and sophomores Ameya Tyagi and Rish Railkar.

"We want to be conference and sectional champs," said 10th year coach Kole Clousing. "We want to qualify the whole team for the state meet."

NAPERVILLE CENTRAL

The Redhawks return state qualifiers senior Peter Paik and Rhoan Jha along with other returners senior Charlie Morgan (Wisconsin Whitewater) and juniors Emil Nehran, Jason Xu and Zach Highhouse.

Newcomers include seniors Braden Rodemeyer and Drew Lifka, juniors Christian Coleman and Oscar Riddle, sophomore Braeden Rodemeyer and freshman Jason Cheng. "We want to do better than last place in the DVC," said coach Kevin Schillerstrom.

NAPERVILLE NORTH

The defending DVC champs have seniors Brandon Dumbell, Sujit Vellanki and Alex Maitland, junior Aarush Bhardwaj and sophomore Noah Eun back in the lineup. Junior Qooly Somoza, who has battled injuries his first two years, will try to make an impact along with freshmen Max Buxbaun, Yanson Lew and Kush Shar.

"We are rebuilding," said Heather Henricksen in her 23rd year. "We graduated seven seniors but we still have high expectations."

NEUQUA VALLEY

Coach Will Rose's troops claimed DuPage Valley Conference and sectional championships, placing 13th at state. State qualifiers senior Johnny Mou and junior Andy Yu return, joined by seniors Adi Bansal and Rudy Shen, juniors Evan Yang and Ricky Kim and sophomore Akhil Matham.

New players include senior Yash Dighe, juniors Anthony Yang and Aditya Rakshit, sophomores Ishaan Rayhav and Boris Sirotkin and freshmen Shaurya Kanhari and Jayden Chiou.

"The DVC is extremely balanced," said Rose. "This year is no different. We want to maximize our potential and use our opportunity to grow and develop players for the future."

SOUTH ELGIN

Coach Eduardo Molina's Storm took fourth in the Upstate Eight and fifth at sectionals, and are looking for senior Jasjeet Talwar to lead this year's team.

ST. CHARLES EAST

State qualifiers Tiernan Price, Alex Sternowski and Teige Donehoo return for coach Rob Livermore, with newcomers Brockmeyer and Tommy Slonen looking for spots in the lineup.

"The conference is competitive," said coach Rob Livermore, whose team was 9-6 and second in sectionals last year. "We graduated seven seniors but we have many quality players ready to fill their shoes. We want to increase our standing in the conference and build upon last season's postseason success."

ST. CHARLES NORTH

Senior Jon Spicer, top 16 finisher in Class 2A singles, will be joined by state qualifiers senior Noah Bajuk and junior Cole Weddle. Seniors Daniel Hokr and junior John Bambales also return with varsity experience. Sophomore Josh Denz will be part of coach Sean Masoncup's 22nd team.

"We want to compete every match and get better every match and every practice," said

Masoncup.

ST. FRANCIS

It is a rebuilding season for the Spartans, who lose 6 of 8 top players and 9 of 13.

Sophomore Umar Bajula is the top player for coach Tom Castronova. Bajula was 2-2 at the Class 1A state meet as a freshman.

The Spartans placed seventh in the rugged Benet sectional. They also feature senior Will Loughman, juniors Jake Rzeszutek and Blake Reynolds, and newcomers senior DJ Tenuto, juniors Jack Brink, Connor Chapparro, Anthony King, Aedan Kuch and Peter Williams, and sophomores Ben Kolin, Henry Kopec, Brendan Leegan and Jackson Zeman.

The Spartans begin their first season in the Chicago Catholic League North with Loyola, Fenwick, Marmion, DePaul Prep and St Ignatius.

"We are in the high skill north," said Castronova. "We have our work cut out for us."

TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN

Keith Mills stepped down after 22 years and will assist new coach Rick McLean.

The Trojans, third at the 1A Hinsdale South sectional, return seniors Elliott Mathew (17-8), Hendrik DeVries (1A state qualifier) and Andrew Ausmus along with junior Luke Tuscherer and sophomore Elliot Tandy. Newcomers include senior David LaBarbera and Travis Lemkull and junior Timo Kacian.

"We have a 57-7 record over the last three years and return five starters," said Mills.

"Benet moving to 2A should help but Hinsdale South is loaded. Class 1A is tough for us being one of the smallest schools."

WEST AURORA

The Blackhawks were 9-1 in the Suburban Prairie and sixth in the 2A Metea Valley sectional under coach Bill Stanley, in his 26th year. They return senior Will Hipp, junior Josh Hartman and sophomores Cole Loomer and Jonathan Hoskins.

Newcomers include senior Evan Herbert, sophomores Kucas Van Lear, Dexter McWilliams, Grant Klausner, Tyler Byrne and Timothy Plummer and freshman Nolan Wyeth.

"We hope to be top two in the SPC," said Stanley. "We want to get better every day and stay disciplined. We are 31 players strong and we are a young team that is extremely hard working. We are determined to compete for a conference championship."

WHEATON NORTH

The defending DuKane Conference champs were second in a 2A sectional and 18th in the state.



Dylan Wallace returns for a Wheaton North team that has won the last four DuKane titles. The falcons have their top three doubles team back.

The strength for Eric Laird's troops is in doubles play. Wheaton North returns its top three doubles duos led by No. 1 doubles David Hill and Dylan Wallace. The second doubles team of senior CJ Coppelatta and junior Will Arneson along with the third doubles duo of juniors Jack Nelson and Archer Matthias are also back.

Seniors Keegan McCarthy and Bharath Sudharson also return, with newcomers juniors Milo Saenz and Gavin Kelly and freshman Henry Jonas looking for spots.

"There a lot of competitive strong returning players," Laird said of the DuKane. " It should be a fun seaosn with a lot of close matches."

WILLOWBROOK

Coach Ed Delacruz welcomes back seniors Dave May and Nick Gillono, and juniors Cole Williams, Mohammed Kamel, Mohammed Hameed and Diego Morales.

Newcomers are Will Greco, Omar Areanas and Brogan Byrne.

"Downers Grove South and Hinsdale South have strong returners," said Delacruz. "We want to take the next step and qualify sectional players to the state tournament."