

Press Clippings Through May 13, 2025

- Daily Herald -

‘He really does make a difference’: South Elgin HS precision manufacturing teacher wins Golden Apple Award

By: Rick West

Date: May 07, 2025



South Elgin High School precision manufacturing teacher Matthew Erbach is surprised by Alan Mather, President of The Golden Apple Foundation, with a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching Wednesday, Erbach is one of 11 teacher award recipients in Illinois.

“Apples to alien oranges.”

That’s how precision manufacturing teacher Matthew Erbach compared more traditional English or science classes to what he does at South Elgin High School.

So Erbach was genuinely surprised when he walked out of his class Wednesday and into a roomful of people at the school there to congratulate him for winning a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

“When I got the initial nomination, I was shocked simply because this is an unusual class,” he said. “It’s tough to compare this to other environments. So I kind of considered it to be a real long shot.”



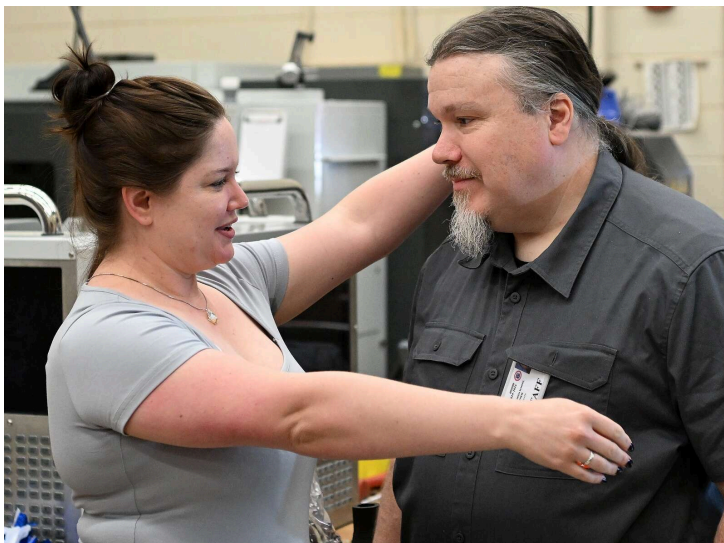
South Elgin High School precision manufacturing teacher Matthew Erbach thanks everyone after being surprised with a Golden Apple Award on Wednesday.

Erbach was one of 11 teacher recipients of the award and was selected by the Golden Apple Foundation from more than 470 nominations among 9th through 12th-grade teachers in Illinois.

The awards honor outstanding teachers for having lasting, positive effects on students' lives and school communities.

Erbach received a \$5,000 cash award and a spring sabbatical provided at no cost by Northwestern University. He also joins the Fellows of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, a community of educators dedicated to addressing the teacher shortage in Illinois.

"We hope that Matt is going to prepare the next generation of teachers to be just like him," said Alan Mather, President of The Golden Apple Foundation.



South Elgin High School precision manufacturing teacher Matthew Erbach gets a hug from his wife Kathryn after he received a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching on Wednesday.

Erbach has been at South Elgin for two years after spending the previous 16 at Streamwood High School. His wife Kathryn said he'd been keeping an eye out as the winners were being announced throughout the state.

"He didn't think he had a chance at all. But he's really amazing at what he does," she said. "He really does make a difference. I don't think he gives himself enough credit."

"He really, really loves what he does. It's everything to him."

Erbach was visibly uncomfortable with the attention.

- Chicago Tribune/ The Courier News - South Elgin High School teacher surprised with Golden Apple Award, the second U-46 winner in two years

By: Mike Danahey

Date: May 7, 2025



Matt Erbach, a South South Elgin High School precision manufacturing and engineering teacher, speaks Wednesday during a surprise event at which he learned he was to receive a 2025 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Just before the start of one of his classes Wednesday morning, South Elgin High School teacher Matt Erbach was startled when his classroom was suddenly filled with people he wasn't expecting.

Members of the Golden Apple Foundation, fellow teachers and staff members, and his wife Kathryn were there to celebrate his selection as a 2025 winner of a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

"My watch is already pinging, telling me my heart rate's up," Erbach said after being bestowed with the honor and being given a gift basket from foundation President Alan Mather.

Only 11 high school teachers in the state of Illinois were selected to receive the prestigious teaching award this year out of more than 470 nominees. The winners are chosen based on a number of criteria, including lasting, positive effects on students' lives and school communities.

Each recipient is given a \$5,000 cash award and a paid spring sabbatical from Northwestern University. They also become fellows of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators.

"We hope that Matt is going to prepare the next generation of teachers to be just like him," Mather said during his presentation.

Erbach teaches precision manufacturing and engineering, subjects that have real world applications, connect with people in other countries and will never leave a student asking, "How am I ever going to use this?" Mather said.

This is not the first time Erbach has been lauded for his work. In March, he was named Teacher of the Year by the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education. And he's a past recipient of the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence and an Illinois State Board of Education Award of Meritorious Service.



Golden Apple Foundation President Alan Mather speaks Wednesday during a surprise presentation at which Matt Erbach, a South Elgin High School precision manufacturing and engineering teacher, was named a 2025 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching winner.

Among Erbach's initiatives was an after-school project in which a team of six students designed and produced a two-part aluminum "leg bone" portion of a prosthetic leg. The effort resulted in the team taking second-place in the Phillips Machine Student Competition, beating out designs from college and university teams, Erbach said.

The work was done in conjunction with Life Changer Manufacturing, an after-school group at Chickasaw High School in Mississippi that works with high schools across the country in designing prosthetic legs made for and delivered to amputees in Latin American nations, he said.

Erbach's work on the project dates back to when he was teaching at Streamwood High School, where he taught for 16 years before coming to South Elgin two years ago. The students he works with now not only attend South Elgin but travel from other high schools in District U-46 for his classes, he said.

One of the big benefits for those in his classes is a chance to work with state-of-the art CNC (computer numerical control) equipment with which they can design and make items out of metal. Erbach said South Elgin is the only high school in Illinois to have some of the machinery it uses.

Senior Eddie Guerrero used the equipment to make a chess set, which Erbach praised for its detail, particularly the intricate knight pieces.

"It's been amazing working in Mr. Erbach's classes," he said.

What he's enjoyed, Guerrero said, is that Erbach allows students to think up their own projects and helps them execute them. In fact, the classes have inspired Guerrero to attend Elgin Community College in the fall to study industrial manufacturing technology.

Fellow senior Soren Erikson already has an after-school job as a machinist's assistant at Haumiller Engineering in South Elgin thanks to taking the classes he's taken with Erbach since his freshman year.

This summer, Erikson said, he has a paid internship with Haumiller and will learn how to program its CNC machines. In the fall, like Guerrero, he will be studying manufacturing at ECC.

"From taking classes with Mr. Erbach, I saw that you could make good money and have a good career path," Erikson said.



South South Elgin High School Matt Erbach demonstrates an aluminum artificial leg bone six of his students designed and made. Erbach learned Wednesday he was named one of 11 high school teachers in Illinois to win a 2025 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

That's one of his goals as a teacher, Erbach said. Educating students to realize their skills can lead to future success in the industrial arts and well-paid jobs, he said.

Right now he has 70 students are enrolled in his classes. "That's too few. I'd like to see that double," Erbach said.

Erbach is the second consecutive School District U-46 teacher — and the second teaching in South Elgin — to win a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. Last year, Aimee Legatzke, a kindergarten teacher at Fox Meadow Elementary School in South Elgin, became the first teacher in district history to receive the honor.

The Golden Apple Foundation rotates which grade level of teachers it recognizes in a given year, with this year high school teachers being recognized. In the 2025-26 school year, teachers in fourth through eighth grades will be honored, followed by pre-kindergarten to third grade in 2026-27 and high school again in 2027-28.

- WNIJ News -

Elgin High School students ask for help to save a creek

By: Northern Public Radio/ Peter Medlin

Date: May 9, 2025



Poplar Creek running behind Elgin High School

To listen to the radio version of this story, please click [here](#).

Several cottonwood trees have fallen across Poplar creek, behind Elgin High School. Brittney Mallen says it's been happening more and more these past few years.

“We lose about at least two or three every year, it would seem, right now,” said Mallen. She’s an environmental science teacher at the school.

Those fallen trees are a symptom of larger ecological issues, like erosion happening to the creek. Issues that students like Aarav Patel have studied for a community service project.

“Here you see the stream [flow] underneath the bank. There’s a ton of erosion underneath, so there’s kind of an overhang of land, and that kind of just destabilizes that bank,” said Patel. “So, all of these trees and all that dirt keeps falling in the water, and it just makes the water quality worse and makes the entire area less stable.”

They’ve tested water quality, sediment and pollutant levels and found high levels of dissolved oxygen and copper. They also waded into the stream to track macro-invertebrates in the water.

“We take out these big nets, go in the water, kind of kick up some dirt, and see what we can kind of catch to look at and then we release them back in the water. You find things as small as a little mayfly or as big as a crayfish,” said Patel. “I think that’s one of the biggest issues with erosion: when you get a lot more of these pollutants in the water, these animals just can’t survive anymore. So, year after year, you see less and less in population numbers.”

Elgin High School students have been running these experiments and conservation efforts on the creek for decades. And because the Elgin’s environmental classes have run experiments here for so long, they can compare their data to previous years and analyze trends.



Poplar creek behind Elgin High School

Mallen, herself, went to Elgin High School and conducted similar water studies of Poplar creek. She says that experience, and her teachers, inspired her to come back to teach and continue this work.

But, she says her environmental classes aren’t just observing, they’re trying to mitigate the problems.

“We do invasive removal. They use tools in the woods and cut down mostly buckthorn and honeysuckle, so they remove that,” she said. “Then, in the spring, we buy as many native plants and trees as we can afford with our budgets.”

They recently planted a bunch of swamp white oak trees near the creek. But now that the erosion is getting worse, they just don’t have the resources to get at the root of the issues.

That’s why students like Hasan Hammad gave public comments at a recent U-46 school board meeting, asking the district to step in to help restore the creek.

“The scale of the damage requires the expertise of environmental professionals who have the tools and knowledge necessary to be able to implement effective and lasting solutions,” said Hammad, at the meeting.

That could mean re-planting native trees and re-stabilizing the bank. Students like Hammad outlined their research findings and made the case for why the creek is so important to the school.

“A more stable creek will help minimize the effects of flooding and also protect biodiversity,” said Hammad. “Additionally, students at the school, just like us, use this creek to get hands-on learning experiences in environmental science, which makes it an invaluable resource to us.”

Jacob Lesch is another student. He says someone from the school board did reach out after their public comment.

“We had a few emails just saying that they really valued our response, but, since that, we haven’t gotten a direct response yet, but we’re still waiting,” he said.

Mallen says they just wanted to bring awareness to the issue and don’t expect immediate action, but her class is hopeful that the district will take saving the creek seriously.

They say if the problems persist, it won’t just hurt the creek’s ecosystem, it’ll hurt the school ecosystem. And rob future science students of a hands-on learning lab running right through their backyard.

- Daily Herald -

‘A leader, mentor and education advocate’: Former U-46 chief José Torres dies at 65

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy

Date: May 05, 2025



Jose Torres

José Torres, a nearly 40-year veteran educator and former Elgin Area School District U-46 superintendent, died Friday, May 2, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, after a brief illness, according to sources.

He was 65.

Condolences poured in on social media from friends and supporters.

“A lifelong student and teacher, he left a legacy not only in classrooms and school districts across the nation, but in the hearts of those he met,” according to an obituary posted on Facebook.

Torres headed the state’s second-largest school district — at the time serving about 40,000 students — for six years starting in 2008. He previously served as regional superintendent at Chicago Public Schools, and worked in school districts in California, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

He was recognized for addressing persistent gaps in achievement by establishing an office of Equity and Social Justice, the first of its kind at U-46. He also created the Ten Boys mentorship initiative and the Superintendent Scholarship Program, donating his own money to provide financial assistance for students who are the first in their families to attend college.

Elgin Mayor David Kaptain said Monday he is taking Torres’ death “personally” as he was more than someone he worked with.

“He was a wonderful man,” said Kaptain, who first was elected to the city council in 2005 and later mayor in 2011. “We talked about helping each other. We talked about doing things in the community. When he came to Elgin, he brought with him a really great personality to the school district. His impact on the community extended well beyond his work with U-46.”

Among those conversations over coffee, the duo talked about how to engage the youth in the community, particularly Elgin's large Spanish-speaking population, which is 48% Latino, Kaptain said.

"It was about helping establish the line of communication between the city and U-46," Kaptain said. "He was well known in the community, as well."

Torres was widely respected while leading U-46. But he wasn't without his critics. He had implemented or floated some controversial ideas, such as a new grading scale and a proposal to not require reading classes for all middle school students. The latter idea drew criticism from dozens of parents, students and teachers and ultimately, district officials decided to leave the program as is.

U-46 released a statement expressing sadness at Torres' unexpected passing.

"As a leader, mentor and education advocate, Dr. Torres embodied the values of equity, service, and humanity," said U-46 Superintendent Suzanne Johnson, who was hired by Torres as the principal of Bartlett High School and later as the assistant superintendent of teaching and learning. "His belief in people — and his insistence that we lead with purpose — shaped the trajectory of my career and life and the lives of countless others, including thousands of students. Our students in U-46 who will never know this amazing man, benefit every day from these principles."

Torres championed programs that reflected his commitment to inclusivity and educational excellence. The district's award-winning dual language program was launched under his leadership and now serves more than 12,000 students in preschool through 12th grade. He also supported the creation of leadership institutes for Hispanic and African American parents, and invested in early childhood education and programs for students with special needs, the district release said.

"Above all, he reminded us and required that we must truly know our students — not just their academic data, but their stories, their struggles and their dreams," Johnson said. "He led with heart and intellect. His legacy lives on in every classroom where a child feels seen, in every family that finds a voice, and in every leader who dares to imagine a more just and compassionate world."

In 2014, Torres left U-46 to become president of Aurora-based Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, handing over the reins to his then-chief of staff Tony Sanders, who served as superintendent until his own departure in 2023 to head the Illinois State Board of Education as state superintendent.

Much of Torres' education career had been spent at the executive level.

He steered IMSA through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic — at the time, the school had 650 residential students studying from their homes in 62 counties.

Torres left the helm of the state-funded selective boarding school focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in 2021.

He was two days into retirement when then-Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot appointed him as interim CEO of Chicago Public Schools, filling in during the transition from CEO Janice Jackson to her successor, Pedro Martinez.

Torres is survived by his wife, Isabel, and three children. A private service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center, splcenter.org.

- Kane County Connects - Remembering Dr. Jose M. Torres - Former School District U-46 Superintendent Date: May 8, 2025



School District U-46 is remembering former Superintendent Dr. José M. Torres, who led the district from 2008 to 2014 with a deep commitment to equity and excellence. He passed away after a brief illness at the age of 65. [READ MORE](#)

- Chicago Tribune/ The Courier News - Guest column: Promise of dual language programs in Illinois must be embraced By: Sara Pletcher Date: May 9, 2025



Sara Pletcher is a dual language instructional coach, serving PreK-6th grade teachers in U-46 School District in Elgin.

The auditorium was full of families, all eyes on the brightly lit stage. Alejandra nervously approached the podium. Only her hairbows were visible as she shared what speaking both Spanish and English meant to her, her family and her community in a clear, confident voice. She spoke of the importance of bilingualism in service of her family, in making new friends and in helping her achieve her goals in life.

As she finished with, “Soy de dos mundos (I am of two worlds),” there wasn’t a dry eye in the house.

During this district-wide celebration of bilingualism, it felt freeing and empowering to raise our bilingual voices in this way. It is equally empowering to know that dual language programs all over our state are striving to raise high-achieving, biliterate students, able to express themselves in two languages and ready to participate as citizens of a multilingual world.

Supported by decades of research, dual language programs have a proven ability to close achievement gaps for all students. Illinois has passed Public Act 103 0362 that encourages schools to expand its dual language efforts and harness the power to close the gap for students, especially those with less opportunities.

While our state is making progress, more needs to be done to gauge these programs’ accountability and ensure that students like Alejandra receive high-quality instruction to help them reach their long-term goals. Illinois’ current school report card system looks only at English language arts scores. If we’re serious about our students’ achieving biliteracy and if we’re to have successful bilingual programs, we should be gauging our students’ ability in both languages.

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) for students in grades 3-8 assesses their knowledge of the state standards is our most influential test. Seventy-five percent of school designations, and thus funding, is based on this test so schools feel immense pressure to show IAR growth. I know from my own experience that the data that affects the school rating is at the top of the agenda, whereas other equally meaningful data, like scores on the standardized test used to evaluate English learners' proficiency, is left out of the conversation.

If we want to see more children like Alejandra stepping up to proudly declare their two languages, then we need to update the state accountability system to incorporate authentic measures of what our multilingual students can do, whether dual language programs are working well and what can be done to improve them.

There are two additional ways we can improve the system and support our students:

- Include assessments in both languages for programs promising biliteracy. Most programs already have these measures in place; it wouldn't mean more assessment. Instead, this means including existing reading measures in both languages in the state report card to offer a more accurate view of what our bilingual students can do and the effectiveness of our bilingual programs. In my program, we use LAS Links as a measure of Spanish proficiency, as well as student portfolios.
- Make accountability expectations match the goals of the program, rather than using a one-size-fits-all report card. If schools are going above and beyond the monolingual norm, we should ensure their report card reflects student achievement in both languages and the program model, and shows if schools are meeting their goals. Students like Alejandra do twice the work to read in both languages — school ratings should reflect that.

It's time for the state to see the fullness of what our bilingual students can do, just as Alejandra and 12 other bilingual writing winners showed our district in 2023. Alejandra found — and raised — her voice and is now excelling as a biliterate middle school student. If we value bilingualism and biliteracy in schools, we should do everything we can to support our students and their learning.

- Chicago Tribune/ The Courier News - Elgin News Digest: Anderson seeking homes for cats, kittens displaced by flooding; grand opening planned for new KidSpace at Elgin library

By: Mike Danahey

Date: May 9, 2025

U-46 Educational Foundation awards college scholarships

School District U-46 students were presented with money for college during the annual Superintendent's Scholarship reception and awards ceremony held April 23 at the U-46 Welcome Center in Elgin.

Each scholarship recipient is a first-generation college-bound student who will receive a \$2,000 scholarship from the U-46 Educational Foundation, according to a news release. This year's scholarships were funded by a grant from the Seigle Foundation and donors that include KCT Credit Union, Studio GC, the Association of Elgin School Administrators, John B. Sanfilippo & Son Inc. and K12 Insight.

Among the schools scholarship recipients will be attending are Northwestern University, Stanford University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois Chicago, University of Wisconsin, Case Western Reserve University, Aurora University and DePaul University.

The recipients are:

Bartlett High School — Jatziry Alba, Anthony Corona, Kyle Depakakibo, Melani Flores, Shaila Ochoa, Sara Sulemanjee, Emilia Tredota.

Elgin High School — Brianna Calderon, Julissa Chavez, Damaris De Alba Valdivia, Gael Flores, Lesley Gonzalez, Alondra Lechuga-Pita, Anahi Melendez, Wilebaldo Modesto Hernandez, Eric Nazario, Guadalupe Rivera.

Larkin High School — Dayanara Aguilar, Lara Amaro, Andrea Jimenez.

South Elgin High School — Mackenzie Klinger, Oscar Miranda, Ayush Patel, Zuzanna Szlag.

Streamwood High School — Samantha Camarena, Jennifer Gaspar, Omar Lopez-Aguado, Leonor Nevarez, Sophie Saflarski, Juliana Solis.

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

Bartlett native serves with U.S. Navy JAG Corps in Guam

By: Rick Buke, Navy Office of Community Outreach

Date: May 07, 2025



Lt. Charles Moore serves with the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps attached to Victim's legal Counsel Program Western Pacific Naval Base Guam.

Lt. Charles Moore, a native of Bartlett, serves with the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps attached to Victim's Legal Counsel Program Western Pacific Naval Base Guam.

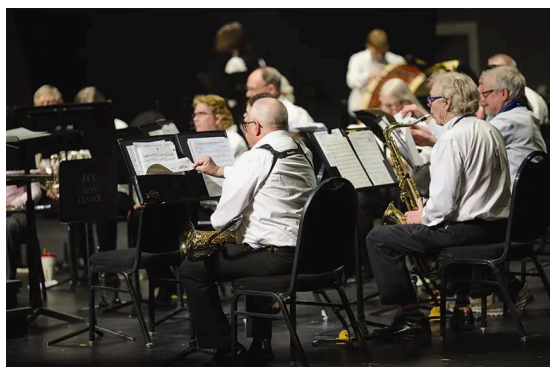
Moore is a 2013 graduate of South Elgin High School. Additionally, Moore graduated from Northern Illinois University College of Law in 2019 with a Doctor of Jurisprudence and from Northern Illinois University in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in political science, a minor in English and a certificate in women's and gender studies.

“The biggest lesson I learned is one that the Navy has been preaching for a long time: people are what matter,” Moore said. “As someone who was adopted, I know that family is more than just blood; it's the family that raised me like one of their own. It's the neighbors who helped take care of me before school or that helped coach me in sports; it's the lifelong friends I made in school.”

**- Chicago Tribune/ The Courier News -
Elgin News Digest: ECC bands and ensembles to
present spring concerts in May; Hanover Township's
annual Kite Festival set for Saturday**

By: Mike Danahey

Date: May 6, 2025



Elgin Community College's Concert Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Blizzard Theater in Building H on the school's Elgin campus.

5K to benefit U-46 program for deaf/hard-of-hearing students

A 5K run and walk to benefit School District U-46's program for students who are deaf or hard of hearing will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 10, at the Bartlett Nature Center 2050 W. Stearns Road.

The U-46 Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program serves more than 100 students with hearing loss in self-contained classrooms and through traveling resources, according to the district's website.

Online registration ends Friday but participants also can sign up in person Saturday morning. The entry fee is \$25 for adults, \$12 for children ages 3 to 17 and free for those under 3. To register and for more information, go to www.u-46.org/Page/3627.

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

- Daily Herald -

Baseball: South Elgin falls behind early, storms back to beat West Chicago, maintain UEC lead

By: Craig Brueske

Date: May 08, 2025



Entering the game with a 5-game winning streak, South Elgin's baseball team received a rude awakening from host West Chicago in the first inning of their Upstate Eight Conference clash Thursday afternoon.

Batting around, the Wildcats (5-16, 5-8) grabbed a 5-0 lead thanks in part to an outfield error, 2 walks, RBI singles from Ryan Bell and Lucas Wheat (2 for 3), and a 2-run single off the bat of Dylan Mason.

It didn't take the Storm (16-9, 11-1) long to answer.

South Elgin sent 13 batters to the plate during its 9-run second, taking advantage of 4 Wildcat errors, an RBI single from Zach Barkho, Aiden Bernau's RBI double, and punctuated by senior first baseman Ryan Mirante's 2-run double to right-center.

The Storm went on to win, 14-6.

"I'm glad they reacted that way," Storm coach Jim Kating said of his team's early comeback. "When you come out and you don't throw strikes, it doesn't matter what the team is. They hit some balls really well.

"We put ourselves in that predicament. I'm glad we did that (scored 9 runs in the second), but we can't start out that way."

Mirante, who led off the second with a single, finished 3 for 3 with a pair of RBI, including his 2 hits in the marathon frame.

"I was looking to get up and swing early in the count because I've been getting behind 0-2 a lot," said Mirante. "I changed my swing a little bit. I'm striding out a little earlier, so it was good to get some good swings."

Trailing 5-0 after an inning was a different experience of late for the Storm.

"We've been up in a lot of our games, so it was good to see that we could go down 5-0, battle back and keep our composure," said Mirante.

South Elgin tacked on solo runs in the third and fourth before adding a pair of insurance tallies in the fifth.

Lucas Seifrid's sacrifice fly brought home Jesus Contreras in the seventh to cap the scoring for the Storm, which received solid bullpen performances from sophomores Jonathan Niksich (2 IP, 3 strikeouts) and Kyle Iott (2 IP, 4 strikeouts).

"We're still working on things," said Kating. "We're still trying to get some stuff done in regard to fundamentals."

With the win, the Storm remains atop the UEC standings, a game ahead of West Aurora (10-2).

"In the opinion of our coaching staff, we've only played three games the way we're supposed to play, so we still have a lot of room to improve," said Kating. "I think the kids are up to the challenge of doing that."

EJ Huffman and Sam Zalak each drove in runs for the Wildcats, while Tommy Doyle went 1 for 2 with a pair of walks.

"It was good to see the kids come out ready to play," said Wildcats coach TJ Nall, "but we can't give a good club like that four outs, yet alone six or seven. We threw the ball around a little bit.

"If it's one error, that's OK, but we can't quite handle 2, 3, 4 miscues in one inning. You've got to find a way to turn the page — be mentally tough to make the next play and expect the baseball to be hit to you."

- Chicago Tribune - AU recruit Austin Paskewic pitches Streamwood past Larkin. But his bat comes alive too. 'Done that for four years.'

By: Paul Johnson

Date: May 6, 2025



Streamwood's Austin Paskewic (22) throws a pitch against Larkin during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Elgin on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Austin Paskewic has been an impactful player for four seasons, blossoming into Streamwood's leader as his career has unfolded.

Sometimes, in a tight game, teams need their star to be the star. Sabres coach Dan Jennings never worries in those situations, however.

"He's done that for four years," Jennings said of Paskewic. "He's a really good player. He's going to Aurora (University) for a reason, and he's going to be really good for them."

Paskewic had his hands on the pulse of everything Tuesday afternoon for Streamwood in a comeback 5-3 Upstate Eight Conference win in eight innings at Larkin in Elgin.

He went 7 ²/₃ innings before reaching his pitch count and also had two hits to keep the Sabres (11-11, 7-5) in the game. He drove in a run to cut the lead to one and later scored the tying run.

Given a second chance, Streamwood rallied and earned the win for Paskewic, who struck out 12 while allowing three runs — only one earned — on six hits and a pair of walks.

Conner Flynn, Casey Nosek, Paskewic and Josh Zamora all had RBIs for Streamwood.

Paskewic was recruited by AU to play third base and catch, but it was his pitching Tuesday that sparked the Sabres. After a sluggish start, he settled in, notching 10 strikeouts in a five-inning stretch.



Streamwood's Austin Paskewic (22) follows through on a pitch against Larkin during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Elgin on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

"I was missing with the off-speed and had to rely on the fastball," Paskewic said. "They were just catching the fastball early. Once I started getting the breaking ball in the zone, it didn't feel like they had a chance."

Antonio Ventura also pitched well for Larkin (2-20, 1-9). He struck out seven in 5 2/3 innings, allowing two earned runs on four hits and three walks. He added two hits, including a double. Paskewic seemed to get stronger as the day went on, something that Larkin coach Niko Morado noticed as well.

“He pounded the zone, especially late in the game,” Morado said. “When pitchers usually start getting tired and start throwing more balls, he stayed locked in, so credit to him.”

While his pitching kept Streamwood alive, Paskewic got the game to extra innings with his bat.



Streamwood's Austin Paskewic (22) reacts after hitting a double against Larkin during the sixth inning of an Upstate Eight Conference game in Elgin on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Jennings pointed out that Paskewic has been scuffling at the plate lately, so his RBI double to score Adan Rojas, cutting the lead to one, was a welcomed sight.

“It did feel nice,” Paskewic said. “I think I kind of got in my head a little bit. I feel like I was getting under the ball a little too much and maybe I was trying to do too much.

“I feel like I settled in. I was more behind the baseball, staying through it. It felt way different.”

In college, Jennings knows that Paskewic’s bat will dictate his playing time.

After watching Paskewic perform for four varsity seasons, Jennings also knows it’s in there. He hopes Tuesday’s hit unlocks something for the rest of the season.

“He’s hit a bit of a skid this year in terms of swinging it, but he saw it well today,” Jennings said. “I think that confidence is going to run into West Chicago tomorrow.”



Streamwood's Austin Paskewic (22) bears down on a pitch against Larkin during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Elgin on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Paskewic has followed Nick Weaver behind the plate for the Sabres.

Weaver, an Elgin Community College standout, was named the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference's player of the year on Tuesday. He's committed to Eastern Michigan.

Paskewic credited Weaver's influence in helping guide him on his path to college baseball.

"Not only my defensive capabilities back there but being a field general," Paskewic said. "That's progressed a lot. I can be a force to help the defense play better, get outs when we need them."

- Daily Herald -

Girls soccer notes: Streaks take center stage for Huntley, Elgin Metea Valley

By: Chris Walker
Date: May 06, 2025



Maizie Nickle, center, and the Huntley girls soccer team took an undefeated record into this week's action.

Snapping Elgin's streak

South Elgin (9-7-2, 3-0-1) denied Elgin from extending its season-opening unbeaten streak to 16 games, sending the Maroons home with their first loss, a 5-0 decision on April 29.

Nevaeh Gyurko scored twice and Ava Baker, Christina Slovik and Lindy Vidic also scored in the victory. Slovik added a pair of assists while Lucy Tomasi and Avi Hernandez also had assists.

"The girls were excited and looking forward to having an undefeated team come in, especially since it was a division/conference team," Storm coach Jerzy Skowron said. "And the fact that we not only scored five goals, but were able to get a shutout, was a huge confidence boost for us."

It's not one kid leading the way for the Storm.

"We have a bunch leading in different ways," Skowron said. "Lucy Tomasi is stepping up, trying to make a name for herself in a group of excellent attackers like Nev (Gyurko), Avi (Baker) and Christina (Slovik). We've had quite a few shutouts recently, and Ellie (Vidic), Riley (Goetz), Mia (Traver), and Ashley (Gonzalez) have stepped up big time in defensive roles."

Elgin (15-2-1, 2-2) returned to the win column against Proviso East but dropped a 2-0 game to Bartlett (5-4-4, 2-1-1) on May 3.

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