

# Press Clippings Through June 10, 2025

## - Daily Herald -

### Elgin Area Chamber awards scholarships to eight graduating seniors

By: Pat Szpekowski

Date: June 6, 2025



Eight local high school students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships from the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce and its economic development program, Elgin Development Group. Pictured, from left, are: Emmett Hanson, South Elgin; Sgubh Shah and Jackson Wipperfurth, Central; Dayanara Aquilar; Larkin; Emily James, Elgin; Sulemanjee, Bartlett; Monica Antunez Enciso, Larkin; and Leonor Nevarez, Streamwood.

The Elgin Area Chamber and its economic development program, Elgin Development Group, granted eight \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors pursuing further education.

The chamber believes that leadership, community service, and the pursuit of higher education should be appropriately recognized and rewarded with this new scholarship program.

The eight scholarships were recently presented at the chamber office. Below are the recipients and the college's they will attend and area of interests:

- Dayanara Aquilar — Larkin High School; University of Illinois, international business with a minor in Spanish;
- Monica Antunez Enciso — Larkin High School; to attend Oberlin College, public policy;
- Shubh Shah — Central High School in Burlington; University of Illinois, business;
- Jackson Wipperfurth — Central High School in Burlington; Purdue University, pharmaceutical science;

- Sara Sulemanjee — Bartlett High School; Stanford University, human biology;
- Emmett Hanson — South Elgin High School; University of Illinois, mathematics;
- Leonor Nevarez — Streamwood High School; Loyola University, pediatric oncology nurse;
- Emily James — Elgin High School; University of Illinois, international studies/global studies.

“We are proud to award these eight deserving recipients with this year’s scholarships,” said Carol Gieske, president and CEO of the Elgin Area Chamber. “They have worked hard to achieve stellar school records and have invested themselves in the community through a variety of volunteer efforts.”

“These eight outstanding students exemplify excellence and have a bright future ahead of them. We are honored to play a small part in helping them move forward in their lives through these scholarships,” said Tony Lucenko, Elgin Development Group Director.

Scholarships are available to high school seniors that reside in Elgin or South Elgin. The scholarship criteria were based on the applicant’s scholastic achievement, interest in continuing education and career goals, participation, and leadership in school and community activities.

About the Elgin Area Chamber:

The Elgin Area Chamber is a proven collaborative business community resource and provides relevant, innovative, and impactful programming and services that ensure a healthy business climate and enhanced quality of life.

For more information, connect with the Chamber online at [ElginChamber.com](http://ElginChamber.com); on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn social media platforms, or by phone at (847) 741- 5660.

**- Daily Herald -**

**Hanover Township Summer Open Gym begins June 2**

**By: Hanover Township**

**Date: June 03, 2025**



Free summer activities including team building, recreation, STEM projects, and arts and crafts will offered to ages 5-16 at Hanover Township schools and

The Hanover Township Summer Open Gym Program kicked off June 2 and runs through Aug 8.

This free program is offered at five schools throughout the township as well as the Izaak Walton Youth Center & Reserve, 899 Jay St. in Elgin.

Youth will participate in a combination of team building activities, recreation, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) projects, and arts and crafts activities.

Open gym is designed to give youth a safe, fun, and positive place to go that allows them to make new friends and showcase their skills while being around positive, caring adult staff.

The Summer Open Gym runs Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m. at the Izaak Walton Youth Center & Reserve as well as:

- Mondays for ages 5-14 at Ontarioville Elementary, 2100 Elm Ave. in Hanover Park.
- Tuesdays for ages 5-14, at Sunnydale Elementary, 716 Sunnydale Blvd., Streamwood.
- Wednesdays for ages 5-16 at Oakhill Elementary, 111 E. North Ave., Bartlett.
- Thursdays for ages 5-14, at Laurel Hill Elementary, 1750 Laurel Ave., Hanover Park.
- Fridays for ages 5-16, at Hanover Countryside Elementary, 6 S. Bartlett Road, Streamwood.

To register or to inquire about volunteering, visit [www.hanover-township.org](http://www.hanover-township.org) or contact the township at (630) 483-5799.

# **- Daily Herald -**

## **Baseball: South Elgin rallies to knock off York for first sectional title since 2017**

**By: Craig Brueske**

**Date: June 07, 2025**



Trailing top-seeded York 3-0 after 5 innings with a bunt single being its lone base hit to that point, South Elgin's baseball team found its offense at the right time during Saturday's Class 4A sectional championship clash in Villa Park.

After tying the contest with a 3-run sixth, the fourth-seeded Storm (25-11) pushed the go-ahead run across in the top of the seventh on Justin Pold's bases-loaded walk before holding on in the bottom half of the frame for a 4-3 victory over the Dukes (24-12).

"Those two sliders were in and the last one I fouled off – I really wanted that one," said Pold, who delivered a clutch single during his first at-bat of the game in the sixth. "It was a nice at-bat and I was happy to come back and finish it (with the walk)."

"He is a true teammate," Storm coach Jim Kating said of Pold. "He's unselfish and always waiting for an opportunity. He came through today twice."

Zach Barkho led off the sixth with a double, and Alex Muro's pinch-hit RBI single trimmed York's lead to 3-1.

Following Pold's single, Connor Lund pop fly to short center caromed off the glove of a York infielder, but centerfielder Drew Gami threw to second for a force out.

After Lund stole second, Aiden Bernau scored on a balk to make it 3-2 before Jake Sparacino's slow roller to first drove in Lund with the tying run.

“We got some runners on and they made some things happen,” said Kating, whose team captured the school’s first sectional title since 2017. “I’m ecstatic for my players, my staff, and the families. They came through – they believed.”

Sophomore Jonathan Niksich worked around a leadoff walk to record the save, inducing a fielder’s choice grounder to third baseman Nathan Kmiec and a strikeout before retiring the final out on a deep fly ball to centerfielder Lund.

“I knew it would stay in the park – he (Luke Pieczynski) didn’t get all of it,” said Niksich. “It was a lot of pressure but I believed in my infield and outfield.”

Senior Jack Zaimins picked up the win, working 3 scoreless innings in relief of junior starter Jacob Robertson (3 R, 3H, 4 Ks).

“Jack kept us in the ballgame,” said Kating.

With the win, South Elgin advances to Monday’s 6 p.m. Kane County Cougars supersectional against McHenry (34-4-1) at Northwestern Medicine Field in Geneva.

“Another one-run game – we’ve been in a lot of them,” said Kating, whose team recorded its third straight 1-run postseason victory while putting the longtime coach’s retirement on hold for at least a couple more days.

“It means everything,” said Pold. “I love these boys. It’s a crazy experience. I’ve never felt anything like it.”

York, seeking its third consecutive sectional title, took a 1-0 lead in the first on Josh Fleming’s leadoff double and Marco Giorno’s RBI groundout before adding a pair in the second on Nick Allen’s 2-run double.

However, the Dukes stranded 7 runners over the next 5 frames, including a bases-loaded opportunity in the fifth.

“We had runners in scoring position often but their pitchers battled,” said York coach River Pitlock, who received 6 1/3 solid innings from southpaw starter Jack Bodach (3R, 4H, 7 Ks).

“There’s nothing to look down upon. I wouldn’t do anything different. I had my senior out there, and I’m going to let him throw. I’m very proud of our guys.”

**- Daily Herald -**  
**Softball: Van Dinter tosses shutout to help St. Charles East over South Elgin for sectional title**

**By: Joel Boenitz**

**Date: June 06, 2025**



South Elgin's Addison Tinerella is out on a force at home as St. Charles East catcher Hayden Sujack steps on the plate after taking the throw from third baseman Holly Smith during the Fremd Class 4A girls softball sectional final on Friday, June 6, 2025.

No matter what the situation was, St. Charles East pitcher Makayla Van Dinther had full trust in her defense behind her.

Whether there was no outs and nobody on, or when South Elgin loaded the bases with two outs in both the third and fourth innings, the junior knew she could put the trust in her team to help her out.

"In those stressful situations, me and my catcher talked and located my spots," Van Dinther said. "And I just knew I had to trust my defense. We played good all-around, and they helped me out a lot."

Van Dinther paved the way for a sectional title for the Saints, tossing a six-hit shutout to help them to a 5-0 victory for their first sectional title since 2019.

"She just never wavered all day long," Saints coach Jarod Gutesha said. "It was a hitter's zone, but she kept peppering it and hitting her spots. And when we got into jams, she got us out of it."

The Saints (23-15) will face Barrington in a Class 4A supersectional at Barrington at 6 p.m. Monday. The Fillies defeated Huntley 2-0 in their sectional final. The two teams last faced off in 2023, with the Saints losing 18-6.

"These girls have just come out and put everything into this run," Gutesha said. "South Elgin was a good team, but we moved the ball a lot and put the ball in play, and when you do that, good things happen."



“We needed to be playing our best and we’re doing it right now. This is a group that I knew was going to be tough, even with our record. I knew that come postseason, we were going to be tough.”

Junior Lexi Majkszak got the scoring started early for the Saints after running out an infield single. After she just beat the throw to the bag, junior Hayden Sujack broke for the plate, scoring on an errant throw. Senior Holly Smith would bring her home later in the inning to make it 2-0 before the Storm got a chance at the plate.

“I definitely wanted to pick up my teammate (senior) Addison Wolf after she struck out and wanted to get the run in by making contact in any way possible,” Majkszak said. “It felt so surreal to get our team on the board and get everyone up.”

Majkszak would continue the scoring in the sixth inning. With the bases loaded and just one out, she hit a grounder to third base, which was hit soft enough for sophomore Morgan Beers to slide in safely at home.

Beers would add even more insurance in the seventh inning when the sophomore slapped her fourth hit of the day into right field to score Smith from second.

“I just knew we needed an insurance run to really secure the win with a good inning,” Beers said. “I’ve been getting some pretty weak hits lately, so to get it into the outfield and get the insurance run got the confidence back.”

One batter later, senior Eden Corcoran drove her home for the fifth run.

“When it was 3-0, it felt good. But then it was 4-0, and then it was 5-0,” Gutesha said. “As soon as we got that fifth run, granted we still had to play the bottom of the seventh, but we knew we could finish it.”

Meanwhile, the loss puts an end to a record-breaking season for the Storm (29-5), who were just a win away from their first sectional title.

## **- Daily Herald -**

### **Softball: Kiel, South Elgin shut down St. Charles North to reach sectional championship game**

**By: John Bumbales**

**Date: June 05, 2025**



The South Elgin softball team was ready for action right from the get-go Thursday afternoon at the Class 4A Fremd sectional semifinals against No. 2-seeded St. Charles North.

The No. 5-seeded Storm (29-4) scored two runs against North Stars pitcher Paige Murray in the top of the first inning, and they never looked back as they posted a 5-0 victory to advance to the championship game Friday at 4:30 p.m. against No. 6 St. Charles East.

Sophomore Emma Bell led off with an infield hit before scoring on an RBI double by Jenna Sheehan for a quick 1-0 lead. Loyola University-bound winning pitcher Anna Kiel (16-3, 0.82 ERA) drove in Sheehan with an RBI single to make the score 2-0.

Defending state champion St. Charles North (22-10) could never get its offense going as Kiel fired a 5-hitter without many scoring threats against her throughout the contest.

"This was a bad day not to play your best softball. South Elgin played very very well, and I'm very impressed with them," said St. Charles North coach Tom Poulin, whose team was outhit 8-5.

"We left some opportunities to score some runs out there, but South Elgin was better today in all phases. We love our lineup, we have a ton of experience, and a ton of options and it was just one of those days early on. But they had great approaches at the plate and they kind of played like they had nothing to lose."

Leading 2-0 in the top of the sixth, sophomore Kaidence Rumachik reached base on a one-out single before scoring on a two-out double down the left-field line by senior Amber Gnutek. Then No. 8-hitter Addison Tinerella picked a great time to hit her first varsity home run as she crushed the ball over the center field fence for a 5-0 lead.

"The first two at-bats I rolled over and then I popped up so I was really just trying to keep my hands straight and I just wanted to hit the ball as hard as I could," said Tinerella. "We're



definitely hungry for more. This team has such good chemistry we do not want to give up, and we do not want to end this season together. We just want to keep going."

The North Stars did put together a rally in the bottom of the seventh as Faith Maleski walked with one out, Abby Zawadzki singled, and Ella Heimbuch walked with two outs to load the bases. But Kiel buckled down to strike out the last batter of the game as the Storm stormed the field in celebration.

"Thankfully (Tinerella) gave us a little charge and having those extra three runs (in sixth inning) were huge because when you play a team as good as St. Charles North we knew we were going to have to play 21 outs," said South Elgin coach Brad Reynard, whose team is aiming for their first sectional title in school history Friday.

"She (Kiel) has been our everything. She's been on varsity for four years, and she's re-written our record book with the all-time strikeout and hits record for us. We're just excited, and we're going to take this ride as far as we can go."

## **- Daily Herald -**

### **Baseball: Roberston saves South Elgin's sectional win over Bartlett**

**By: Jared Birchfield**

**Date: June 05, 2025**



South Elgin closer Jacob Roberston was just doing his job when the junior took the ball from starter Zach Barkho in the top of the seventh inning with the Storm one out away from a 2-1 win over Bartlett in Thursday's first Class 4A Willowbrook sectional semifinal.

The Hawks had made it more challenging by loading the bases.

After quickly putting Gio Scivitaro, Bartlett's No. 2 hitter, behind 0-2, Robertson induced the Hawks' second baseman to fly to left field to earn the save and advance his team to Saturday's sectional championship.

Fourth-seeded South Elgin (24-11) will face top-seeded York, 10-0 winners over No. 13 Glenbard West in Thursday's second semifinal.

York (23-11) finished fourth in last year's Class 4A state tournament. The Storm will be looking for their first sectional title since 2017.

"I was not as nervous as I thought I would be," Roberston said. "Because that's been my job all year — going in the late innings and getting us out of a jam."

Barkho wanted to complete the game. Going into the final frame, the junior right-hander had given up only two singles and two walks and struck out four. After Bartlett's leadoff batter in the seventh flew out, Barkho gave up a single to Austin Daubenmire and a walk to Vince Kamarat. Tino Acevedo's sacrifice bunt put both runners in scoring position. After intentionally walking Josh Colaizzi, Barkho turned the game over to Roberston.

"Zach wanted to go back out there. They had the lower half of the order, and he wanted to get out there and try to finish the game. That is the competitiveness that he has. Zach did not have his best stuff today and he gutted it through," said South Elgin coach Jim Kating. "Jacob came in and did a nice job. Nothing like getting in on your first few pitches with the bases loaded."

Colaizzi also turned in a stellar performance. Facing the minimum number of batters in four of the six innings he pitched, the junior right-hander struck out 12, gave up two singles and walked a batter. Colaizzi struck out the side in three of the innings.

South Elgin made the most of the few opportunities Colaizzi gave them. With one out in the third inning, Colin Tuftedal drew the Storm's only base on balls of the day. Nathan Robertson, Jacob's brother, reached on an infield error. Aiden Bernau's single just inside the right-field line plated Tuftedal and Roberston.

Eighth-seeded Bartlett (19-17-1) got one run back in the top of the fourth. With Daubenmire on second and Kamarat on first, Acevado laid down another bunt. Acevado was out at first, but the relay to third to get Daubenmire went wide allowing the senior to score.

"South Elgin hit the ball in spots where they needed to, and we couldn't execute when we needed to. We fought, battled and took good quality at-bats the entire game," Bartlett coach Alex Coan said. "Unfortunately, we just ended up on the other side of this one."