

Press Clippings - 11/19/2024

- Chicago Tribune - Three U-46 school board members running unopposed in spring election

By: Mike Danahey

Date: November 19, 2024



Incumbent District U-46 School Board members Veronica Noland, Dawn Martin and Melissa Owens will not face opposition in the April 1 election.

With nominating petitions due Monday, no challengers emerged for the three open seats, each of which has a four-year term.

“I am honestly a bit surprised by this, especially given the numbers of candidates in some other local school board elections,” said Martin, a Bartlett resident. “Our last two elections did have more candidates than seats, but by a small margin. Offhand, I do not know historically when this last occurred.”

Owens, who currently serves as the board’s president, said she too expected there would be some challengers.

“I’m still looking forward to the opportunity to engage with voters through the election cycle,” said Owens, also of Bartlett.

She speculated that things like the cost of running a campaign and the time required to sit on the board could be factors.

“I do think we need to investigate why,” Owens said. “Public school systems need a pipeline of

future advocates and leaders.”

U-46 is not the only local school board race with a dearth of candidates. According to the Kane County Clerk’s Office elections website, Geneva School District 304 has four candidates running for four 4-year terms and no candidates filed to run for Educational Service Region Kane 31, which has two 6-year terms and two unexpired 2-year posts to fill.

However, Aurora West School District 129 has six candidates for three 4-year seats; Aurora East School District 131 has nine candidates for three 4-year seats; Batavia School District 101 has six candidates for four 4-year seats; Burlington Central School District 301 has nine candidates for three 4-year seats and two candidates for an unexpired 2-year term; Kaneland School District 302 has five candidates for three 4-year terms; and St. Charles School District 303 has eight candidates for four 4-year terms.

Martin was elected to the U-46 board in April 2021. She said she chose to run again to see the district’s facilities work through to completion, continue to work with staff on issues driving student success, and to delve more into state mandates, how they affect the district, and what the board and district can do about them.

“I look forward to continuing to support our families and help them understand the many options U-46 has to offer students,” she said.

The “Unite U-46” facilities master plan and boundary changes being made to address changing enrollment numbers represent big shifts for the district, Martin said. Board members are working with administrators as plans are made to close some schools, construct new buildings or add to others, and shift sixth-graders from elementary to middle schools.

“We have spent many hours addressing changes to our buildings,” she said. “We did choose to close some schools, but this will allow us to redraw boundaries and better level the student population at each school. Thousands of students will have access to either new or updated learning environments, which in some cases is long overdue.”

During a second term, Martin said she wants to see what the board can do to help the state’s elected officials understand the toll mandates take on school districts and push for changes in mandates already approved.

“I have learned much more about this over the last three years, and my frustration levels have greatly increased,” she said. “Mandates take away our local control, which I know is an issue for many districts, but more importantly they limit what our students can do course-wise and add items that can be seen as unnecessary. Also, many mandates are unfunded, which puts financial stress on our districts and communities.”

Owens said some of the board’s biggest accomplishments since she first became a member in

2017 include addressing the district's financial and debt management and its capital planning.

"Prior to our bond referendum in 2023, we successfully reduced our existing debt obligations ahead of schedule," she said. "Strategies such as property tax abatements and bond repurchases substantially reduced interest payments. That's included our bond refinancing last November that saved \$20 millions in interest expenses."

According to the district's current forecast, U-46 will be able to accomplish its Unite U-46 plan of \$380 million in capital expenditures with a lower overall debt service than previously estimated, Owens said.

"We certainly have difficult tasks ahead in determining new school boundaries and prioritizing additional necessary capital outlays. I chose to run for reelection because I want to continue to lead this work."

Noland, an Elgin resident who was first elected to the school board in 2013, could not be reached for comment.

- Chicago Tribune - Football pairings and local scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

By: Josh Krockey

Date: November 19, 2024



Lincoln-Way Central's Kiya Newson-Cole (10) tries to save the ball in front of Lockport's Chelsea Brooks (3) during a Southwest Suburban Conference game in Lockport on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024.

MONDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

De La Salle 44, Oak Forest 41

Grayslake Central 63, Woodstock North 23

Homewood-Flossmoor 67, Morgan Park 26

Marian Catholic 62, Latin 33

Morgan Park Academy 49, Parker 40
Morton 36, Reavis 35
Oswego 60, Hinsdale South 55
South Elgin 57, Jacobs 32
Stagg 38, St. Laurence 35

BOBBY BOLTON TIP-OFF CLASSIC

At Richards

Richards 56, Eisenhower 39

Richards (1-0): Kailey Moore 17 points. Leilani Avila 11 points. Skylar Egan 10 points.

At Shepard

Marist 71, Hillcrest 39

Shepard 60, Evergreen Park 45

Shepard (1-0): Jessica Manley 25 points. Victoria Miller 10 points.

BURLINGTON CENTRAL MARK EINWICH TOURNAMENT

Kaneland 48, Belvidere North 23

Kaneland (1-0): Kendra Brown 22 points. Sam Kerry 9 points.

St. Charles North 57, DeKalb 35

HAMPSHIRE DOREEN ZIERER TOURNAMENT

Mother McAuley 59, Geneva 45

Fremd 69, Hampshire 36

Hampshire (0-1): Autumn Kriegel 14 points.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE TOURNAMENT

Lincoln-Way Central 56, Joliet Central 40

Lincoln-Way Central (1-0): Kiya Newson-Cole 16 points. Taylor Watt 14 points. Brooke Baechtold 11 points.

Lincoln-Way West 51, Minooka 42

Joliet West 54, Joliet Catholic 49

Plainfield North 46, Providence 34

MUNDELEIN TOURNAMENT

Mundelein 50, Grant 14

Mundelein (1-0): Casey Vyverman 20 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 blocks. Grace Dunigan 9 points. Madalyn Gardner 8 points, 3 steals.

Regina 44, Grayslake North 39

St. Viator 46, Highland Park 45

SOMONAUK TIM HUMES BREAKOUT TOURNAMENT

Aurora Central Catholic 72, Plano 33

Sandwich 54, Dwight 41

VERNON HILLS COUGAR CLASSIC

Antioch 52, Elk Grove 23

Antioch (1-0): Heidi Rathmann 16 points. Jenna Williamson 11 points. Scarlett Carroll 9 points.

Lake Forest Academy 43, Vernon Hills 38

Vernon Hills (0-1): Keira Thomas 18 points.

Rockford Guilford 49, Lake Forest 30

YORK TOURNAMENT

Waubonsie Valley 77, St. Charles East 61

York 60, Oswego East 32

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

- Daily Herald - Fox Valley girls basketball outlook

By: Craig Brueske

Date: November 19, 2024



St. Charles East's Corinne Reed leads an experienced Saints team coming off a 1-13 season.

Aurora Central Catholic

Coach: LeVada Smith (seventh season).

Last season's record: 23-9 overall, 6-1 in the GCAC.

Top returners: Sofia Corral, sr., G; Riley Cwinski, sr., F; Grace Grunloh, jr., G; Brooklyn Murphy, sr., G.

Key newcomers: Sofia Orozco, soph., G/F; Ashley Watter, jr., F.

Worth noting: Although the Chargers' run of consecutive Class 2A regional championships ended at 2 last season, they enjoyed a 23-win campaign and defeated Marengo (78-50) in the regional semifinals before falling to top-seeded Stillman Valley (53-48) in the regional finals. Another positive — the Chargers return several solid players, including 5-foot-9 guard Corral, 5-9 forward Cwinski, and 5-9 guard Murphy. Orozco (5-11) and Watter (5-10) will provide

interior depth for the Chargers. ACC opens its season against Plano, Sandwich, LaSalle-Peru, and Dwight on Nov. 18-20, 22, at the Somonauk Breakout Tournament.

Aurora Christian

Coach: Tori Henning (third season).

Last season's record: Played a JV schedule and finished 9-11.

Top returners: Maddy Quan, sr., G; Makenzie Jensen, jr., G; Anna Beaumont, soph., F.

Key newcomers: Jada Vizcaya, frosh., G; Evelyn Klimek, frosh., F.

Worth noting: Aurora Christian is happy to be back playing a varsity schedule again. "This will be our first season since 2020-2021 that we will be playing a varsity schedule due to lack of numbers and how young our girls have been," said Henning, a standout player for the Eagles before graduating in 2019. "We are excited to get the program back to where it was since our 2019-2020 state appearance." The Eagles begin their season at Indian Creek on Nov. 25.

Bartlett

Coach: Patrick Ryan (first season).

Last season's record: 15-18 overall, 10-8 in the Upstate Eight (5th place).

Top returners: Emily Linkovich, sr., G; Chloe Ohm, soph., G; Christina Stankus, sr., F; Megan Kron, sr., G.

Key newcomers: Neda Bazys, jr., C.

Worth noting: Bartlett welcomes the return of 5-foot-6 guard Linkovich and 5-9 guard/forwards Ohm, Stankus, and Kron following last season's 15-win campaign that included an upper-half finish in the Upstate Eight. Ryan, who takes over the helm, is in his second season with the program. Bazys, a 6-foot center, gives the Hawks additional height in the frontcourt. The Hawks earned a 46-34 regional quarterfinal victory over Glenbard North last season before falling to eventual sectional champion Batavia (74-32) in the regional semifinals. Bartlett begins its season Nov. 19 against Schaumburg at the Lady Saxons Thanksgiving Tournament.

Batavia

Coach: Kevin Jensen

Last season: 29-6 (13-1 DuKane Conference)

Top returners: Julia Arulandu, senior, guard; Natalie Warner, senior, guard; Hallie Crane, senior, forward; Kaidyn King, senior, guard

Top newcomers: Riley Bainter, senior, forward; Payton Haslett, junior, guard; Eva Holzl, junior, guard; Sam Jansey, junior, guard, Ali Thomas, junior, forward

Worth noting: Batavia is coming off one of its best seasons in program history, where they won the DuKane Conference, secured their third straight regional title, and even won a sectional title for the first time. The Bulldogs lost some key pieces to graduation, including all-time leading scorer Brooke Carlson, did return some other pieces from last season, including Crane,

who finished top 3 on the team in points per game, shooting percentage and rebounds a season ago. While Jensen knows filling those voids will be tough, especially Carlson, he's expecting one of his returners to step up in the leading role to help the Bulldogs back to where they went last season.

Burlington Central

Coach: Mike Carani

Last season: 15-16 (10-8 Fox Valley Conference)

Top returners: Audrey LaFleur, sophomore, guard; Ashley Waslo, junior, guard; Jordyn Charles, junior, guard

Top newcomers: Ali Kowall, junior, guard; Lauren Meyer, junior, forward; Julia Scheuer, sophomore, forward; Kelsey Covey, sophomore, guard; Ainsley Wilson, sophomore, center

Worth noting: After losing seven seniors to graduation, including leading scorers Emma Payton and Emersyn Fry, Burlington Central comes in as a very young and athletic team. While there may be some growing pains, especially against some of the more experienced teams in the Fox Valley Conference, Carani is excited to see the group develop into a cohesive unit throughout the season.

Cary-Grove

Coach: Tony Moretti (sixth season)

Last season's record: 20-12, 12-6 FVC (fourth)

Top returners: Kennedy Manning, jr., PG; Malaina Kurth, jr., G; Ellie Mjaanes, sr., F; Sam Skerl, sr., G; Alivia Nielsen, sr., F; Mary Brown, sr., PG

Key newcomers: Avery Hoffman, so., G; Kenley Duvall, so., F; Holly Streit, jr., G

Worth noting: The Trojans won their first regional championship since 2018, beating Lake Forest 47-33 in the Class 3A Lakes regional final, and had an eight-win improvement from the 2022-23 season. ... Mjaanes, who is committed to D-I Lehigh, averaged 12.8 points and 6.4 rebounds a game to lead the team. ... Manning averaged 6.2 points and a team-high 2.6 assists a game. She also led C-G with 100 steals. Skerl (6.4 ppg) had 27 3s, and Kurth averaged 5.9 points a game. ... Mjaanes, Manning and grad Emily Larry (7.4 ppg) were named to the All-FVC team. ... "I'm very excited for the opportunity to compete with this group of girls," Moretti said. "They have lofty goals."

Crystal Lake South

Coach: Mark Mucha (11th season)

Last season's record: 3-25, 1-17 FVC (tied for ninth)

Top returners: Makena Cleary, so., G; Tessa Melhuish, so., F; Adi Schwab, sr., G; Laken LePage, jr., G; Mallory Glover, so., G

Key newcomers: Gracey LePage, so., G; Gaby Dzik, fr., G; Riley Travis, jr., F

Worth noting: The Gators are going to get a big boost with the return of Laken LePage, who

missed her sophomore season with a torn ACL. As a freshman, she averaged 11.1 points a game. ... Gracey LePage, Laken's sister and a standout in soccer with 38 goals last spring, is a first-year varsity player after not playing as a freshman. Laken and Gracey's older brother Cooper LePage, a 2023 graduate, ended his high school career with 1,288 points and is now at D-II Northern Michigan. Their father Matt LePage is the current Gators boys basketball coach. ... Cleary led the team in scoring last year at 7.9 points a game with 55 3s. Melhuish was one of the area's leading rebounders (8 rpg). ... "We're a very young team compared to last year," Mucha said. "I'm excited for us to build on our experience and to have Laken LePage back for her junior year."

Dundee-Crown

Coach: John Gonnella (third season)

Last season's record: 7-23, 5-13 (tied for seventh)

Top returners: Charlotte Stewart, sr., PG; Olivia Rodriguez, jr., F

Key newcomers: Josie Sheldon, fr., G; Julia Jamrozik, fr., G-F

Worth noting: The Chargers were led last year by forward Monica Sierzputowski, now a freshman at Oakton Community College, at 13.5 points and 7 rebounds a game. She was the team's lone All-FVC member. ... D-C improved by one spot in the FVC standings, tying Jacobs for seventh, after taking eighth in 2022-23 with a 4-14 mark in conference. ... Stewart is the team's most experienced returner at point guard. ... "We are a young team looking to improve this season and growing for seasons to come," Gonnella said.

Elgin

Coach: Kassie Rife (first season).

Last season's record: 9-23 overall, 4-14 in the Upstate Eight (8th place).

Top returners: Isabel Castro, sr., G; Mahitha Ratakonda, sr., C; Kelly Taruc, sr., G.

Key newcomers: Imaan Azeem, sr., G; Genesis Ortega, sr., F; Savannah Guzman, sr., F; Mayalannie Gomez, sr., G; Sara Ortiz, sr., G; Samiha Mayani, sr., F; Jasanya Flores, jr., G/F; Mennatallah Abdel Fatah, jr., C; Aaliyah Quinones, jr., G; Lilliana Carbajal, jr., G; Alexa Lara, jr., C; Angelina Espinoza, soph., G; Rose Isada, soph., G; Selena Westlund, soph., G; Trinity Riggins, frosh., G.

Worth noting: Rife, a member of Elgin's Class of 2012, takes over the helm from Dr. Nick Bumbales, who spent 15 seasons as head coach before retiring last year. Rife has served as the Maroons' JV coach the last 8 years. "We're excited to showcase a team that combines experience with new potential," said Rife. "Leading this group are three major returners — Isabel Castro, Mahitha Ratakonda, and Kelly Taruc, all of whom have been key members of our varsity lineup the last three years. The chemistry these three players share on the court is something we look forward to watching evolve even further this season." As a sophomore, the 5-foot-7 Castro set the school's single-season record with 63 3-pointers. Elgin, which lost to Hersey in the Class 4A regional semifinals last year, opens its season against West Chicago on Nov. 21 at the IMSA Tournament. The Maroons went 0-3 against the Wildcats last season.

“With a diverse group of talented upper and underclassmen, we have the potential to be a powerful force,” said Rife.

Geneva

Coach: Sarah Meadows

Last season: 23-8 (12-2 DuKane Conference)

Top returners: Peri Sweeney, senior, guard; Gabby Webb, senior, guard; Keria McCann, junior, guard

Top newcomers: Bridget Hecker, senior, center

Worth noting: After a second-place finish in the DuKane Conference and a trip to the sectional finals last season, Geneva heads into the season with a bit of a different look. The Vikings lost two seniors to graduation, including leading scorer Leah Palmer and defensive specialist Caroline Madden. Despite this, Meadows said that her girls are ready to play hard and play aggressive in the DuKane Conference once again this season.

Hampshire

Coach: Eric Samuelson (sixth season)

Last season's record: 20-12, 15-3 FVC (second)

Top returners: Chloe Van Horn, sr., G-F; Mikala Amegasse, jr., G

Key newcomers: Autumn Kriegel, sr., G-F; Kiley Podzimek, sr., G; Morgan Trent, sr., G; Roni Dumoulin, jr., F; Jesslyn Mack, so., F; Peyton McCarthy, so., G; Jiselle Lopez, fr., G

Worth noting: The Whip-Purs finished second in the FVC behind Huntley and won 20-plus games for the second straight year. ... Van Horn is a four-year varsity player and averaged 9.3 points and 5.1 rebounds with 52 steals as a junior. ... Hampshire graduated eight, including top scorer Ashley Herzing (13 ppg). ... The Whips also graduated Whitney Thompson (9.3 ppg, 57 3s) and Avery Cartee (5.5 ppg). ... Herzing and Thompson were All-FVC selections. ... “We graduated eight seniors so we’ll have a lot of players getting their first real shot at varsity minutes,” said Samuelson, “but we absolutely love the energy, effort and enthusiasm we’ve seen from this group.”

Huntley

Coach: Steve Raethz (26th season)

Last season's record: 24-7, 17-1 FVC (first)

Top returners: Anna Campanelli, sr., G; Ava McFadden, sr., G; Paula Strzelecki, sr., F; Madison Diaz, sr., G-F; Aubrina Adamik, jr., G; Isabella Boskey, sr., F; Luca Garlin, jr., G; Gwen Campbell, jr., F; Alyssa Borzych, so., G

Key newcomers: Lana Hobday, so., G; Avery Seuss, so., F; Evelyn Freundt, fr., G; Kenzie Oates, fr., F

Worth noting: Huntley won its third FVC title in a row and is 52-1 in conference play since the start of 2021-22. The Red Raiders lost a heartbreaker to Guilford 33-32 in a Class 4A Guilford

regional final, with the Vikings overtaking Huntley on two free throws. Raethz is 446-288 entering his 26th season. ... Campanelli averaged 14.1 points, 4.7 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 2.5 steals as a junior. She is committed to D-I Kent State. ... Strzelecki averaged 7.7 points and 6.7 rebounds a game. ... Adamik averaged 5.6 points a game and hit 32 3s. McFadden sank 20 3s... Campanelli, Strzelecki and grad Cassidy Serpe (5.5 ppg) earned All-FVC honors. ... Huntley returns nine players. ... “We have a lot of players competing for opportunities on the floor and working to contribute to our team’s success,” Raethz said. “We look forward to the opportunity and challenge of contending for a conference title. We have a group of players who work extremely hard, compete every day and are very coachable.”

Jacobs

Coach: Jonathon Reibel (seventh season)

Last season’s record: 9-20, 5-13 FVC (tied for seventh)

Top returners: Sophia Acot, sr., G; Olivia Schuldt, sr., F; Amber Rasool, sr., F; Mallory Fessler, jr., G; Zara Lewis, jr., G-F; Olivia Schuster, so., F

Key newcomers: Sarina Acheatel, jr., F; Elisa Delgado, jr., G; Bri Ramsey, jr., G; Sienna Ryan, fr., G

Worth noting: Jacobs showed improvement last season, going from three to nine wins. They also won four more conference games than in 2022-23. The Golden Eagles, though, have to replace the scoring of grad Cam Cook, who led the team at 9 points a game and 6 rebounds a game. ... Schuster averaged 6 points and 5 rebounds a game in her first year. ... Reibel said the team will have a new look. ... “We have a good mix of experienced players and young players,” Reibel said. “We’re excited to play a different style of basketball that differs from previous years – and this is due to the depth, skill and knowledge of this year’s group.”

Kaneland

Coach: Brian Claesson

Last season: 25-10 (8-2 Interstate 8 Conference)

Top returners: Kendra Brown, senior, guard; Sam Kerry, senior, guard/forward; Charlotte Krage, senior, forward; Kyra Lilly, junior, guard; Amani Meeks, sophomore, guard

Top newcomers: Grace Brunscheen, freshman, guard

Worth noting: While the loss of Lexi Schueler is a big blow, Kaneland is still coming into the season with confidence after making an appearance in the sectional championship a season ago. Claesson is expecting the trio of Brown, Kerry and Krage to be important leaders for the Knights, especially with Brown leading the Knights with 13.9 points per game last season on her way to being a special mention All-Stater. While Claesson is confident Kaneland can make a run at the Interstate 8 Conference title after finishing second last year, he also knows that there might be some early struggles due to the youth on the team.

Larkin

Coach: Stephen Knapp (10th season).

Last season's record: 17-14 overall, 11-7 in the Upstate Eight (4th place).

Top returners: Mia Carter, jr., G/F; Sanaii McPherson, jr., G/F; Yesi Escobar, jr., G; Kenzie Wemken, jr., G; Chloe Potter, sr., G; Mackenzie Leaver, soph., G.

Key newcomers: Kenira Johnson, jr., G; Alizeya Moya, jr., G; McKayla Preuss, jr., F; Mariah Chandler, jr., G.

Worth noting: The Royals bring back a young but experienced squad with 5-foot-9 Carter and 5-8 McPherson leading the way as all-conference players from last season. Wemken and Escobar both have 2 years of varsity experience, while Leaver played last year as a freshman. Knapp expects Potter to get some minutes to help the team this season. Larkin will compete in the newly formed Upstate Eight West. "We are looking to win our side of the conference this year with West Aurora and South Elgin in the mix," said the coach. "We will have this team for two years so it is looking good for the future. Sanaii (McPherson) and Mia (Carter) are both getting looks from colleges and are waiting to see what is offered in the next year." Larkin opens its season against Sycamore on Nov. 19 at the Burlington Central Thanksgiving Tournament. The Royals' home debut is Nov. 25 against Harvest Christian.

Rosary

Coach: John Rutter (4th season).

Last season's record: 9-22 overall, 0-7 in the GCAC.

Top returners: Maddie Stumm, sr., G; Karyna Brol, sr., G.

Key newcomers: Clara Bello, soph., G; Olivia Figueras, sr., G; Kayla Garcia, soph., G.

Worth noting: Rutter returns for his 4th season following two years away from the program. The Royals return just 2 players — 5-foot-10 Stumm and 5-6 Brol, and will include 4 freshmen — guards Kaelyn Rudow, Zoe Mesner, Elizabeth Tolentino, and forward Kayla Shimp. "We will look to our seniors to step up and lead this very young and inexperienced team," said the coach. Rosary tips off its season on Nov. 18 against Grant Park at the Reed-Custer Thanksgiving Tournament. The Royals' home opener is on Dec. 3 against DeLaSalle.

South Elgin

Coach: Emily Driessen (second season).

Last season's record: 9-22 overall, 7-11 in the Upstate Eight.

Top returners: Lexi Lopez, sr., G; Molly Stahl, jr., G; Taleah Banner, jr., F; Liv Miller, soph., C.

Key newcomers: Mackenzie Prince, soph., G; Izzy Fernandez, frosh., G.

Worth noting: The Storm look to rebound this season, thanks to the return of 5-foot-8 backcourt leader Lopez, 5-6 fellow guard Stahl, and young interior players Banner and Miller. Prince and Fernandez hope to add depth at the guard position. South Elgin begins its season at home against Jacobs on Nov. 18 before taking on Dundee-Crown, Rockton Hononegah, and Rockford Boylan No. 20-23. "We are a young group looking to grow and build from last year," said Driessen.

St. Charles East

Coach: Kate Claussner

Last season: 19-13 (6-8 DuKane Conference)

Top returners: Corinne Reed, senior, guard; Sofia O'Sullivan, senior, guard; Alyse Price, senior, center; Addie Schilb, junior, guard

Top newcomers: Brooklyn Schilb, freshman; Kathlyn Bainbridge, freshman

Worth noting: St. Charles East boasts a roster filled with experienced seniors heading into the season. Expected to lead the way once again is Reed, a University of Akron commit who was top-3 on the team in every major category besides offensive rebounds a season ago. Along with the group, Claussner is expecting the freshman duo of Bainbridge and Brooklyn Schilb to make an immediate impact on the team, and hopefully help them improve on their fifth-place finish in the DuKane Conference last season.

St. Charles North

Coach: Mike Tomczak

Last season: 27-5 (11-3 DuKane Conference)

Top returners: Riley Barber, junior, forward; Hannah Ganser, senior, forward; Sydney Johnson, junior, guard/forward; Elle Fuhr, junior, forward; Lelanie Posada, sophomore, guard; Brianna Buono, junior, guard

Top newcomers: Bronwyn How, sophomore, forward; Ella Heimbuch, sophomore, guard; Kaelie Tomalak, sophomore, guard; Keira Connolly, sophomore, guard

Worth noting: After graduating a big senior class last season, which included Reagan Sipla and Laney Stark, St. Charles North will be bringing in a young group into the year. However, Tomczak feels the group has already gotten extremely close very quickly thanks to some of the role players from last season stepping into the leadership roles. He hopes that the North Stars can play complimentary, unselfish basketball and hopefully be competitive for the DuKane Conference title once again.

St. Edward

Coach: Michelle Dawson (21st season).

Last season's record: 18-14 overall, 5-2 in the Chicagoland Christian.

Top returners: Amelia Davis, sr., F; Maggie Jarzemsky, sr., F; Elizabeth Leadley, sr., G; Madeline Sasis, sr., G; Alaina Nolan, jr., G; Jordin Sauls, jr., F; Layne Dawson, soph., G; Taylor Dawson, soph., G; Sarah Gurley, soph., G; Savannah Lynch, soph., G.

Key newcomers: Sara Gonzalez, sr., G; Ginger Younger, jr., G.

Worth noting: The Lady Wave enjoyed a turnaround season last year, improving from a 7-25 record in 2022-23 to finish 18-14 in 2023-24. Led by then-freshman Lynch, who made the Oregon Tip-Off and Lisle Holiday Classic all-tournament teams and recognized for all-state honors, St. Edward captured their fifth regional championship since 2005 before falling to Serena (55-44) in the sectional semifinals. Losing just 1 senior, the Lady Wave look forward to

a successful season. Lynch is expected to be the team leader, supported by a cast of talented role players. “From what we saw this summer, everyone, including transfer student Ginger Younger, will be able to contribute on the court,” said Dawson. Alma College-bound Jarzemsky is expected to return from a knee injury in late December. Sasis has committed to play at Lakeland College. St. Edward begins its season at the Oregon Tip-Off Classic Nov. 21-23 and opens the home campaign against Woodstock on Nov. 26.

Streamwood

Coach: Samuel Krueel (first season).

Last season’s record: 13-15 overall, 7-11 in the Upstate Eight (7th place).

Top returners: Brianna Coffey, jr., F; Ayumi Ishikawa, soph., G; Kailey Pawlikowski, sr., F.

Key newcomers: Hannah Christiansen, soph., F; Karen Mendez, soph., G.

Worth noting: Krueel begins his debut season at the helm for the Sabres, led by 5-8 Coffey, 5-4 backcourt leader Ishikawa, and 5-11 frontline player Pawlikowski. At 5-10, Christiansen gives the Sabres additional size in the front court. “We only graduated one starter from last year’s team,” said Krueel. Streamwood opens the season at home against Buffalo Grove on Nov. 19.

West Aurora

Coach: Teresa Waldinger (seventh season).

Last season’s record: 10-19 overall, 7-7 in the Southwest Prairie West (3rd place).

Top returners: Brooklynn Johnson, sr., G; Shaine Johnson, sr., G/F; Serenity Evans., Sr., F; Syncere Williams, soph., G.

Key newcomers: Maya Rabadan, jr., F.

Worth noting: Last season, the Blackhawks suffered several narrow defeats, including 5 losses decided by 1 or 2 points. They will look to turn that number around with the return of 5-foot-7 guard Brooklynn Johnson, 5-7 Shaine Johnson, 5-9 Evans, and 5-5 Williams. West Aurora also competed to the wire against Neuqua Valley (62-57 loss), Naperville North (37-31), and St. Charles East (43-36). The Blackhawks’ season ended with a 57-34 Class 4A regional semifinal loss to Benet Academy. This year, West Aurora heads to the newly formed Upstate Eight West. The Blackhawks open their season at home against Glenbard West on Nov. 21.

Westminster Christian

Coach: Bridgette Gray (first season).

Last season’s record: 8-19 overall, 3-5 in the Northeastern (7th place).

Top returners: Abby Rizzo, jr., G; Beyah Richardson, sr., G; Brooke Jacobs, jr., G/F; Coralyn Lewis, jr., G; Elliette Fuelling, jr., G; Esther Miller, sr., G.

Key newcomers: Evia Fuelling, frosh., G; Kalli Lewis, frosh., G; Kayla Brokke, frosh., G; Mia Craig, frosh., G; Vera Kelly, frosh., G.

Worth noting: The Warriors look to improve upon last year’s 7th-place conference finish with a pair of new coaches — head coach Gray, who was a member of Wheeling’s Class 4A 3rd-place

state finisher (33-2 in 2008-2009) before playing 4 years collegiately at North Park, and assistant Nick Williams, who was a 4-year college basketball player at North Park. Williams is the all-time leading scorer at Niles North. Westminster, which last captured a Class 1A regional title in 2013, opens its season against Rochelle Zell Jewish on Nov. 19.

- Daily Herald - Girls volleyball: Fox Valley All-Area team

By: Mike Miazga

Date: November 18, 2024



Geneva's Sam Vanda is part of the Daily Herald's 2024 girls volleyball All-Area team.

Player School Year Pos.

Morgan Beam, sr., 6-1, MB, Kaneland

*Haley Burgdorf, jr., 6-1, OH, St. Charles North

Alyssa Burke, sr., 5-9, OH, Harvest Christian Academy

Lily Caruso, sr., 5-8, RS, Rosary

Jocelyn Erling, sr., 6-3, MB, Huntley

Alex Goritz, sr., 5-8, Libero, Huntley

Brianna Gritzman, sr., 5-8, Libero, Burlington Central

Morgan Johnson, sr., 6-0, OH, Crystal Lake South

Elizabeth King, jr., 5-10, OH, Hampshire

Mia McCall, jr., 5-11, S, St. Charles North

Maura Minogue, jr., 5-4, Libero, Dundee-Crown

Samantha Pogorzelski, jr., 5-6, S, St. Edward

Maureen Pokryfke, sr., 5-10, OH, West Aurora

Teagan Rokos, sr., 5-6, Libero, Batavia

Jorah Rutter, sr., 6-1, S, Hampshire

Martyna Sowiak, sr., 6-0, MB, Bartlett

Fiona Turnbull, sr., 6-1, MB, Geneva

Sam Vanda, sr., 5-9, RS, Geneva

Georgia Watson, sr., 6-3, OH, Huntley

Sidney Wright, jr., 6-1, MB, St. Charles North

*2024 Fox Valley Captain

Honorable Mention

Olivia Apt, sr., 5-6, S, Crystal Lake South; Grace Bach, sr., 6-0, MB, South Elgin; McKenna Bremner, sr., 5-10, S, Batavia; Victoria Brents, fresh., S, Dundee-Crown; Sam Buss, jr., 6-0, OH, Bartlett; Amber Czerniak, jr., 5-10, OH, St. Charles North; Leah Freesemann, sr., 6-2, OH, Burlington Central; Emmerson Freewalt, jr., 6-0, MB, HD Jacobs; Paige Genke, jr., 5-10, S, South Elgin; Brianna Hard, jr., 5-6, S, Aurora Christian; Madalynn Johnson, sr., 5-7, OH-DS, Aurora Christian; Meg Kalenowski, sr., 5-5, Libero, St. Charles North; Kylie Lambert, jr., 5-7, S, Hampshire; Molly Lambert, sr., 5-8, S, Rosary; Kayli Loonam, sr., 6-0, RS-MB, Kaneland; Savannah Lynch, soph., 5-10, OH-MB, St. Edward; Allison Mathesius, sr., 5-11, MB, Dundee-Crown; Clare McEniry, sr., 5-11, OH, Rosary; Jordan Miller, sr., 5-4, Libero, HD Jacobs; Sienna Robertson, sr., 5-10, OH, Huntley Mari Rodriguez, sr., 5-7, DS, Huntley; Sophia Savini, jr., 5-6, OH, St. Edward; Sarah Savoia Free, sr., 5-7, S, Bartlet; Hannah Steffen, jr., 6-0, MB, Westminster Christian; Peyton Strout, jr., 5-9, MB, Burlington Central; Abby Vongsiri, sr., 5-6, Libero, Cary-Grove; Sydney Wager, jr., 5-10, OH, West Aurora; Abby Whitehouse, jr., 5-7, S, Huntley; Ainsley Wilson, soph., 6-4, MB, Burlington Central; Bobbie Wire, soph., 5-7, OH, Crystal Lake South

- Daily Herald - High school scores for Nov. 18

By: Daily Herald report

Date: November 18, 2024



Henry Duda carries the ball for York during Friday's Class 8A football quarterfinal against Warren.

Upcoming

Tuesday, Nov. 19

Girls basketball

York Thanksgiving Tournament

Waubonsie Valley vs. Prospect, 5:30 p.m.

York vs. Glenbrook South, 5:30 p.m.

Downers Grove South vs. St. Charles East, 7 p.m.

Others

Addison Trail, Metea Valley, Naperville North, Neuqua Valley St. Francis at Hinsdale

Central/South Brenda Whitsell Tournament, TBA

Aurora Central Catholic at Somonauk Breakout Tournament, TBA
Bartlett, Downers Grove North, Lake Park, Maine West, Wheaton Warrenville South at Schaumburg Tournament, TBA
Benet at Lyons, 6:30 p.m.
Buffalo Grove, Grayslake Central, Jacobs, Rolling Meadows, Streamwood at Hoffman Estates Tournament, TBA
Carmel, Lakes, Round Lake, Wheeling at Maine East Tournament, TBA
Cary-Grove, Crystal Lake South at Johnsburg Tournament, TBD
Christian Liberty at Woodlands Academy, 6:30 p.m.
Conant at Glenbard North, 7 p.m.
DePaul College Prep at Glenbard South, 7 p.m.
Elgin at IMSA Keith McIntosh Tournament, TBA
Glenbard West at Naperville Central, 7 p.m.
Grant, Grayslake North, St. Viator at Mundelein Tournament, TBA
Huntley, South Elgin at Dundee-Crown Thanksgiving Tournament, TBA
Kaneland, Larkin, St. Charles North at Burlington Central Tournament, TBA
Lake Zurich at Stevenson (Fairhaven), 4:45 p.m.
Neuqua Valley at Trinity, 6:30 p.m.
Schaumburg Christian at Willows Academy, 6 p.m.
Warren at Loyola Academy, 6:30 p.m.
Wheaton North at Lockport, 6:30 p.m.

Boys bowling

Bartlett at Fenton, 4 p.m.
DeKalb at St. Edward (Elgin Lanes), 4 p.m.
Elgin at Fenton (Wood Dale Bowl), 4 p.m.
Glenbard East at Bartlett, 4 p.m.
Glenbard North at Geneva (St. Charles Bowl), 4 p.m.
Grayslake Central at Mundelein (Lakeside Lanes), 4:45 p.m.
Grayslake North at Barrington (Bowlero), 4:45 p.m.
Hinsdale Central at Morton (Striker Lanes), 4:30 p.m.
Kaneland at Sycamore (Mardi Gras Lanes), 4 p.m.
Lake Park at St. Charles East (Funway Bowl), 4 p.m.
Lake Zurich at Stevenson (Fairhaven Lanes), 4:45 p.m.
Larkin at Streamwood (Streamwood Bowl), 4 p.m.
Libertyville at Warren (Bertrand Lanes), 4:45 p.m.
Naperville Central at Hinsdale South (Bowlero), 4 p.m.
Romeoville at Naperville North (Fox Bowl), 4:30 p.m.
South Elgin at Glenbard East, 4 p.m.
West Aurora at Riverside-Brookfield, 4 p.m.

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