

Press Clippings 10/21/2017

---Courier News--- 10/21/17

School District 303 eyes dual-credit course expansion

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

Dual-credit opportunities for St. Charles high school students could increase next school year.

School District 303 board members could approve an expansion of their dual-credit partnerships with Elgin Community College next month. One proposal would expand its full-day dual-credit program with the college, while another would allow students to take English for both high school and college credit at St. Charles' two high schools.

"We need to focus on students being college and career ready," said Melissa Byrne, the district's assistant director of curriculum. "We need them to access these options early so they can begin making decisions on their future."

Accelerate College is a program started by ECC that allows a select number of high school students to enroll full-time at the community college, take a full course load and earn college and high school credits simultaneously. The program took in 38 high school seniors from School District 300 and 303 during its first year of operation in 2016-17.

This year, **School District U46** partnered with ECC to allow students from its high schools to participate in Accelerate College.

St. Charles' proposal expands the number of students who can participate, by allowing junior-year students to enroll for Accelerate College beginning next school year. Byrne said St. Charles North and St. Charles East high schools would be able to send a combined 30 students, up from the current 17 — all seniors — this school year.

Kelley Gallt, District 303's Chief Academic Officer, added the number of students could increase in the future should demand for dual-credit opportunities increase.

Interested students would have to prove their college readiness by taking college placement tests, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, and a good attendance record, Byrne said. Families have to pay \$200 per month as part of the agreement, as well as any textbooks and transportation costs, but District 303 covers tuition, or \$129 per credit.

Under the proposal, St. Charles high school seniors could graduate from high school with both a high school diploma and an associate's degree in science, arts or applied sciences, officials said.

Also presented this week to the school board's learning and teaching committee was a plan to offer dual-credit English classes at the high schools. The first course, English 101, would follow the same first-year English courses normally required by colleges and universities as graduation requirements. It would be given during the fall of 2018. A second course, English 102, would be made available the following spring.

The courses would be taken at the high schools, rather than at ECC, Byrne said. However, the two courses will be taught by credentialed ECC and high school staff.

"These will be true dual-credit courses," she said, noting their current offerings of articulated dual-credit options do transfer to ECC but may not to other institutions — English 101 and 102 credits would.

According to the proposal, the cap would be set at 20 students per section. It could be two sections per course per high school, Byrne said.

The costs for this option would be just under \$200 per student per course, or a 50-percent discount from the typical costs. Families would be responsible for the cost of any texts.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 10/21/17

Larkin tops Elgin to reclaim Town Jug

BY SCOTT MILLER

Through the years the one thing that has come to be expected when Elgin and Larkin battle for the Town Jug on the football field is to expect the unexpected.

This year's showdown was no exception on Friday night with Larkin pulling out a dramatic come-from-behind 18-14 win in yet another wild finish between the crosstown rivals at Memorial Field.

Trailing 14-12 with 1:20 left in the game Larkin got the ball backed up on its own 12-yard line. However, the Royals' fans hadn't given up as they started chanting, "It ain't over. It ain't over." They were right.

On the very next play quarterback AJ Ball heaved a pass down the far sideline that Kindrell Morris hauled in at the 50. Morris then somehow broke free from the clutches of two Maroon defenders and raced down the sideline and into the end zone for the game-winning touchdown. The Maroons drove to the Larkin 34 in the final seconds, but the game ended on two incomplete passes and a sack.

Morris was wearing jersey number 8 instead of his customary number 2 in honor of his teammate Travis Farley, who was hospitalized with blood clots in his lungs earlier in the week. Morris also had a 45-yard touchdown reception earlier in the game and rushed for 40 yards.

"This is about a lot more than just football," Morris said. "This is about my friend. I don't really care about the rivalry, or the jug, or the win right now. I just care whether my friend is going to be all right. This is all dedicated to him."

Ball completed just 3 passes all night, but he made them count with all three going for a touchdown. The Royals had fallen behind 14-0 early on until Ball connected with Max Wickerchen on a 23-yard touchdown pass over the middle to cut the deficit to 14-6. His first of two scoring strikes to Morris came with just over a minute left in the first half to make it 14-12 heading into the locker room at halftime.

Ball saved the best for last on the game-winner.

"Nomo (Morris) is a gamer," Ball said. "We have a lot of weapons to go, but at the end of the game I was looking to get it to him. I gave him a pretty nice pass but he did the rest once he got it."

The Maroons scored first on a 55-yard drive that ended with a 7-yard touchdown run by Dae'Vion Arthur. Cam Jackson Jr. then recovered his own onside kick for the Maroons to give Elgin the ball back at midfield. Seven plays later Trevon Morris scored on a 2-yard run to make it 14-0.

Arthur finished with 74 yards rushing. Trevon Morris had 73 yards on the ground. The Maroons had a 50-yard touchdown pass from Morris to Xavier Bonds called back in the third quarter on a penalty for an ineligible man downfield that proved to be crucial.

"It was another crazy game just like we expected," Larkin coach Dragon Teonic said. "We knew they were tough. When you look at some of their key players they are a lot bigger than us. But I thought we showed a lot of heart. I couldn't be happier with the result."

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---Daily Herald--- 10/22/17

Career connect-U-46 expo gives families ideas about potential paths

SUBMITTED BY ELGIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46



An all-female competitive engine teardown team, health care demonstrations and culinary displays -- and tastings -- were among the many top draws at Explore 2017: A U-46 Community, Curriculum, and Career Expo at Elgin Community College. About 1,000 students and family members attended the third annual expo Saturday.

"The rain did not stop students and families from coming together to learn about all the opportunities and career pathways available within our district," said Terri Lozier, U-46's Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction and Equity. "We are beyond grateful for the many professionals who donated their time and shared their skills and passion to help U-46 students and strengthen the 11 communities served by our district."

Students who attended the expo wound their way through themed career clusters such as manufacturing; architecture and construction; health sciences; hospitality and tourism; information technology; government and public administration and more.

In each area, students could stop and learn more about a specific career, what courses or programs at U-46 might lead them in that direction and often engage in a fun, hands-on activity, such as piping frosting onto a cake, listening to a model baby's "heartbeat" or playing with blocks in the engineering section.

The engine teardown team, comprised of students in the automotive technology program at South Elgin High School, showed off their skills in the area devoted to transportation, distribution and logistics.

"You got this!" one of the girls said to her teammates as they took apart and reassembled a small-block engine in 24 minutes, 31 seconds. The students will compete at the national Hot Rodders of Tomorrow competition in Las Vegas at the end of October with a goal to finish among the top 10 in the country.

U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-8th district), Elgin Mayor Dave Kaptain, Hanover Park Village President Rodney Craig, Elgin Community College President David Sam, and Advocate Sherman Hospital President Linda Deering were among the political and business leaders who attended the expo. The leaders gathered with Rep.

Krishnamoorthi at the close of the expo to discuss local and federal efforts to improve and expand college and career readiness.

"This type of event is a game changer for middle and high school students," said Rep. Krishnamoorthi. "It's too late to start this work in high school; I believe we need to introduce the opportunities and decisions ahead to families and students at an earlier age to pave the way for future success. It's also critical for the economic success of our communities. I believe there's great potential to expand this type of partnership with ACE to help further develop the workforce of tomorrow."

Among the crowd gathered around the engine teardown was U-46 parent Phil Novello and his children Gaetano, 11, and Gules, 8, who are students at Oakhill Elementary in Streamwood.

Novello said he brought his children to Explore 2017 to help them start considering what kind of careers they might want to pursue. His son likes cars but also loves animals and thinks about becoming a veterinarian. But since Gaetano uses up all of his dad's scrap lumber building bridges and birdhouses, Novello wants him to consider engineering, too.

Gules is younger and still at the stage where she is drawn to most everything, but loves her Dual Language experience at Oakhill and can fluently converse in Spanish.

Novello said he benefitted from attending Explore 2017 as well, leaving with a better understanding of all the programs and courses available to students in U-46. Novello is a member of the district's Citizens' Advisory Council, and his wife, Kristine, is president of the PTO at Oakhill. Even with their level of involvement, it's hard to keep up with all that the district has to offer, he said.

"You can be anything you want to be coming out of U-46," he said.

This is the third annual expo, an event that began as a way of showcasing curricula or course options and has grown to showcase careers through collaboration with the Alignment Collaborative for Education, known as ACE. More than 50 businesses and organizations showcased approximately 65 careers at the expo.

The City of Elgin, Elgin Community College, Elgin State Bank, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Gilmore Marketing Concepts, Inc., Grand Victoria Casino, Hagg Press, KCT Credit Union and Sam's Club were among the event sponsors, donating funds and services to support the expo.

ACE Executive Director Nancy Coleman said she was pleased with the level of community involvement at Explore 2017 and how every industry cluster was represented.

Growing up in Alabama, she said, it was enough for her to go to college. Mentors who helped guide her career came later. But in a rapidly changing and competitive work environment, it's important for today's students to have mentors in middle school and high school who can "help them make good choices," she said.

"I want the students here to see all the possibilities. No one needs to make a decision right now," Coleman said. "They might change their minds five times by the time they are graduating from college or heading to work, but the main goal is for students to see all the possibilities and opportunities available to them."

While some U-46 students attended Explore 2017 as part of a field trip with a teacher chaperone, many were with one or both parents. Lozier said she hoped those parents left the expo "seeing that U-46 offers their students multiple opportunities in different career areas, and I hope that the parents will allow their students to try out some of those."

ACE worked in partnership with the district to offer the expo, organizing several dozen student and community volunteers who welcomed and supported families through the event. Attendees were asked to complete an exit survey that organizers will use to help plan Explore 2018. Already the district is planning to offer next year's expo on a weekday to generate even more participation among students and businesses.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 10/22/17

Boys soccer: Streamwood upends South Elgin for regional championship

BY KEN TILLOTSON

ROCKFORD -- For the second straight game, the Streamwood boys soccer team flipped the switch after the intermission.

While the Sabres' second half performance against South Elgin in Saturday's Class 3A Guilford regional final wasn't quite as explosive as Wednesday's 7-goal outburst against Hononegah, it was equally effective.

Senior Oscar Chavez and junior Alex Chavez notched goals in the 53rd and 56th minutes, respectively, to lift the third-seeded Sabres to a well-deserved 3-1 victory.

Streamwood (13-5-2) earned the right to defend its home turf against Hampshire in Wednesday's sectional semifinal.

"It was like déjà vu of our semifinal game against Hononegah -- we were tied 1-1 at the half," said Sabres coach Matt Polovin. "I had a nice little speech with them again at the half reminding them that we're playing for a championship and we came back out and really took it to them."

Streamwood defeated No. 10 seed South Elgin 2-0 during the regular season and seized a 1-0 lead in the 8th minute behind a wicked strike just outside the box from Oscar Chavez.

The Storm (8-10-3) regrouped nicely and recorded the equalizer at 27:11 when Chris Stanczyk got behind the defense and buried a shot into the left corner.

"We were outstanding in the first half considering the wind and the difficult conditions. We sat in and hit them with a counter attack," said Storm coach Simon Brinklow.

The Sabres rose to the occasion after the break and went ahead to stay on a well executed play. George Bracamontes found Alex Chavez open on the left wing, who made a strong run before lofting a perfect cross into Oscar Chavez for the goal.

Aldo Lazaro and Rafael Gil teamed up minutes later to set up a key insurance goal by Alex Chavez.

"We were shocked at halftime. We talked about our mistakes and how we needed to pressure more," Oscar Chavez said. "We finally connected in the final third and got two good goals."

After a solid opening 40 minutes, South Elgin mustered just one shot on goal in the second half.

"They're a good team and their pressure probably tolled at the end. When that third one went in that was a little too much," Brinklow said.

The Sabres savored their moment receiving the regional championship plaque after being upset by Dundee-Crown in last season's regional semifinal as the No. 1 seed.

"They worked hard and deserve this," Polovin said. "When they do things very well and honest, it's fun to watch."

"We're excited we get to have another home game. It's going to be good," Oscar Chavez said.

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SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 10/23/17

High School Football: Kindrel Morris wears teammate's jersey, beats brother as Larkin tops Elgin

BY PAUL JOHNSON

People at Friday's football game at Memorial Stadium may have wondered where was the familiar No. 2 jersey of Larkin senior Kindrel Morris?

Never fear, Morris was wearing No. 8, and for good reason. Travis Farley, a junior who usually wears No. 8, found out Tuesday he has blood clots that may threaten his future of playing football.

Morris wanted to honor Farley by wearing his jersey, and he did his friend proud.

Morris scored on an 88-yard pass from DJ Ball with 1:05 left to give the Royals a come-from-behind 18-14 Upstate Eight River win over Elgin.

"I just want to see my teammate get better," an emotional Morris said of Farley. "I just wanted to dedicate it to him and let him know that we all have his back.

"I don't care about the rivalry, the (Town Jug), the records, none of that. I just wanted to do it for him because he couldn't do it for himself."

Larkin (4-5, 2-4) fell into a 14-0 hole before getting back into the game. The Royals cut the lead to 14-12 at halftime on two TD passes from Ball — a 23-yarder to Max Wiskirchen and a 45-yarder to Morris.

The score remained there until Larkin got the ball at its own 12-yard line with 1:20 left. Ball knew what he wanted to do right away.

"We could have done a lot of things, but the first thing that came to mind was to pass deep," Ball said. "I gave (Morris) a good ball, but it was all him from there. He's just a gamer."

Morris ended up being covered by his brother Tre Morris, an Elgin senior. Kindrell beat Tre for the catch near midfield. He ducked Tre's tackle attempt, absorbed a big hit, but managed to stay upright.

He raced to the end zone from there.

"It was brother against brother — what a play," Larkin coach Dragan Teonic said. "It was an amazing play."

Elgin (2-7, 1-5) came out strong in the rivalry game. The Maroons opened a 14-0 lead on a 7-yard TD run from Daevion Arthur and a 2-yard TD run from Tre Morris in the second quarter.

But Elgin never scored again.

"Our guys really went out there and played hard," Maroons coach Anthony Mason said. "They did what we asked them to do. It was there for us. We had chances to take this game and not give it back and we missed a few chances."

All three of Ball's completions went for TDs and it was the first three-TD game of his career.

In addition to the two long TD catches, Morris' 38 yards rushing left him eight shy of a second 1,000-yard season.

Pretty symbolic, that No. 8.

"(Morris) begged me to wear (Farley's) jersey," Teonic said. "I was against it because I'm not about me-me-me. Son of a gun, he came through. How cool is that?"

---Courier News--- 10/23/17

See you soon? South Elgin and Huntley could meet in second round

BY PAUL JOHNSON

Both South Elgin coach Pat Pistorio and Huntley coach Matt Zimolzak had a feeling that something good was brewing in their programs this season.

Their 8-1 records confirmed that.

Now the IHSA playoff pairings announced Saturday night have put the teams on a possible collision course.

If both can win their first-round games at home — Huntley against Edwardsville and South Elgin against Palatine — they would meet in the second round.

"That would be cool, but I can't look beyond (Palatine)," Pistorio said. "We have to prepare and get our guys out the first week."

The Upstate Eight Valley champ Storm (8-1) started their run with a trip to Orlando and a Week 1 win over Ransom Everglades of Florida. Pistorio said that's the genesis of the closeness his team now enjoys.

"The kids have developed a bond that has been great," Pistorio said. "It's a very mature group that was able to see what can happen long-term if they really apply themselves. We're really proud of them. We're not the biggest team. It does not matter to them at this point."

Zimolzak knew his team had a special talent in senior quarterback Eric Mooney.

"Eric is an exceptional player," Zimolzak said. "Last year he was pretty good, but the work that he's done to improve and understand the offense better has been great. This is a real special group for us."

St. Charles North (8-1) treated its regular-season finale against previously unbeaten Batavia as a playoff game, and the result was a dramatic 35-28 win to capture the Upstate Eight River title.

The North Stars enter the playoffs at 8-1 for the third straight year, but they have yet to reach the quarterfinals in program history. Coach Rob Pomazak is hoping the momentum from the Batavia win will help them finally break through this year.

"I feel like that game refueled everybody and I think that is the big difference (from past teams)," Pomazak said. "We went into the week saying that it was going to be a playoff-type week, extra film, more time on the practice field. We kept saying that this is how we get over the hump in the playoffs. I do think this will help us get deeper (in the postseason)."

St. Charles East (7-2) and Jacobs (6-3) both face road openers. St. Charles East will travel to Oswego East in 8A. The winner likely will face top-ranked Lincoln-Way East in the second round. Jacobs will travel to Lincoln-Way West in 7A.

In Class 4A, Genoa-Kingston (7-2) will have a home game in the first round, picking up the sixth seed in the northern half of the 4A bracket. The Cogs will face 11th-seeded Elmwood Park. A showdown with 8-1 Dixon could loom in the second round with a win.

St. Edward and Burlington Central each finished 5-4, but neither made the 256-team field. It was particularly difficult news for the Green Wave, the last team left out of the field despite Friday's thrilling 29-28 win over Wheaton Academy.