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Bomb threat in South Elgin 'not credible', authorities say

BY ELENA FERRARIN



A bomb threat scribbled in a bathroom at Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin was found "not credible," school authorities said. *Daily Herald* FILE PHOTO

Authorities conducted two sweeps of Kenyon Woods Middle School after a bomb threat was scribbled in a student bathroom and found nothing, police said.

The threat was found by a student who reported it to school staff members Wednesday afternoon, South Elgin Police Sgt. Mike Doty. The threat indicated the bomb would go off "at a specific time" Friday, he said.

"We did a full investigation like we do with any threat. We did get some assistance from South Elgin police and it was found to be not credible. We just let parents know," Elgin Area School District U-46 spokeswoman Mary Fergus said.

A first sweep of the school building was conducted Thursday night, when U-46 alerted parents of the threat, Doty said. The second sweep was conducted at 10 a.m. Friday. Students and staff members were notified of "A hold in place," meaning they were required to stay in their classrooms as police canine units conducted another sweep that lasted no more than 20 minutes, Doty said. School policy requires students to keep backpacks in their lockers, he added.

South Elgin police received assistance from the Kane County sheriff's officers and a canine unit from Bloomingdale, Doty said. The investigation regarding who is responsible for the threat is ongoing, he said.

It's important for parents to remind their children to report any threats and not spread rumors, Doty said. "Tell them to always tell the school district or a police officer, or a parent as well, what they are hearing."

- Daily Herald staff writer Madhu Krishnamurthy contributed to this story.

SPORTS SECTION

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South Elgin knocks off West Chicago

BY BILL STONE

With injured starting point guard Drake Montgomery missing from the lineup Friday, senior David Binion continued to find his new role with the South Elgin boys basketball team.

From the outset the 6-foot-4 Binion was an outside scoring force and finished with 18 points and two 3-pointers in the Storm's 74-48 Upstate Eight Valley victory at West Chicago.

"Before I used to play in the post, but now I'm more of a wing. Now I'm able to facilitate a lot more. I'm able to score more and dish it to my teammates," Binion said.

"I think once (Montgomery) gets back, we'll all contribute and we'll be even better."

Vince Miskiewicz, a 6-6 senior center, dominated inside for the Storm (13-6, 3-2) with 19 points and 18 rebounds even with hardly playing in the fourth quarter. Senior Noah Rohr had 9 points on three 3s and junior Jace Warrick 8 points on two 3s.

Jason Gimre, the lone senior starter for West Chicago (6-12, 0-5), had 16 points and junior Sam Ricci 14.

Three huge South Elgin runs defined the game and made the final score deceptive. The last was an 8-0 run after Gimre opened the third quarter with 6 unanswered points and cut the Wildcats' deficit to 35-29.

In all the Storm scored on 10 of its next 12 possessions and was comfortably in front 58-34 entering the fourth quarter.

"I called time out (at 35-29). I think that got that mojo going again," South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. "You've just got to play hard and can't take anything for granted because Jason Gimre can really shoot."

The result was similar to South Elgin's 79-57 victory over the Wildcats Dec. 30 for fifth place at DeKalb's Chuck Dayton Classic. In that game Montgomery had 21 points and 9 rebounds and Miskiewicz 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Binion had 4. On Friday he had 8 of South Elgin's first 15 points en route to a 17-4 lead.

"It was good to see him play the way he did," Johnson said. "He shot the ball well, was aggressive. That's the David Binion we've been looking for. I had told myself I think this is going to be his opportunity tonight."

"In DeKalb I didn't take as many shots. I think I was still trying to find my groove, where I could fit in and benefit the team," Binion said. "Here, I know my role. I know what I can do, what I can't do."

West Chicago closed to 26-20 after four straight baskets from Ricci, a 3 and three driving scores. South Elgin switched from a man-to-man to 1-3-1 zone defense and pulled ahead 35-23 by halftime even with Jordan Williams' buzzer-beating 3 for the Wildcats.

"The goal of the second half was to force them to call the first timeout. We did. And then they hit that 3 and the momentum went right back in their hands," West Chicago coach Bill Recchia said.

"We played well in spurts, but we weren't able to maintain that level. You cannot doubt the heart and the effort of this group. We're young. It's going to wind up in good results. We haven't been able to string together a long stretch of high-level play yet, but we're getting there."

A boys cross country standout, Warrick nailed a 3 off a pass by Kyle Sy seven seconds after the South Elgin timeout at 35-29 to begin the clinching run. It began a streak of three baskets apiece by Warrick and Miszkiewicz.

"That's one of our most common inbounds plays and we all knew we could get a bucket off it," Warrick said. "We kind of worked the ball around in that stretch and it opened a lot of driving lanes and kicking out for some easy shots."

Miszkiewicz made his last six shots, including a highlight-worthy behind-the back dunk for a 46-30 lead. Binion's second-quarter dunk came in transition following Miszkiewicz blocking a 3-point attempt.

South Elgin led 42-17 in rebounds and 14-2 in putback points, 8 by Miszkiewicz.

"He was all over the boards," Johnson said. "It's like he wanted every single rebound. If that's the way he wants to play night in and night out, that's a good thing."

Johnson said Montgomery was held out as a precaution after rolling his ankle in Monday's loss at Rockford Jefferson. Montgomery is expected to return for the next game at home Jan. 26 against Bartlett (9-9, 2-3).

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Geneva, Bartlett win UEC games

BY CRAIG BRUESKE

Geneva's girls basketball team (17-3, 7-0) defeated St. Charles East 58-39 behind Margaret Whitley's 20 points Friday night in Upstate Eight River play.

Maddy Yelle and Madison Mallory added 11 and 10 points, respectively, for the Vikings, who led 26-21 at the half before outscoring the Saints 13-0 in the first 5:25 of the third quarter.

"That's what we talked about at halftime," said Vikings coach Sarah Meadows. "I thought we could get up and pressure their guards -- make them play a little bit more uncomfortably."

Sara Rosenfeldt led the Saints (10-11, 3-4) with 18 points.

Burlington Central 55, Marengo 26: Elena Wells had 16 points and Kathryn Schmidt 11 for the Rockets in this Kishwaukee River game. Maddie Menke added 8 points for the Rockets (18-3, 9-1), who host first place Johnsburg next Thursday.

Harvest Christian 58, IMSA 27: Alyssa Iverson and Elena Porreta had 9 points each to lead the Lions to a Northeastern Athletic Conference win. Isimar Garcia and Grace Ringel added 8 points each for Harvest (20-4, 6-0).

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Larkin cruises past Maroons for 15th straight win in series

BY JEFFREY FITZPATRICK



Larkin's Jalen Shaw dunks early in the game against Elgin on Friday at Larkin High School. John Starks | Staff Photographer

To the Larkin boys basketball players December's 8-point win at Elgin was like eating a steak without the baked potato: tasty but ultimately missing something.

Friday's 75-48 victory over the same Maroons was a satisfying feast by comparison.

Upstate Eight River-leading Larkin (14-5, 7-0) defeated its rival for a series record 15th straight time, though Elgin (6-13, 0-7) still leads the all-time series 79-55.

The Royals opened with a big run. Senior forward Jalen Shaw's dunk off a feed from Kindrel Morris capped a 12-0 spurt to open the game. Morris had 3 of his 6 assists during the run while Shaw scored 4 points and senior guard Anthony Lynch splashed a pair of 3-pointers.

The Royals led 20-8 after a quarter and 38-16 at the half.

"We came out ready," said Lynch, who led the Royals with 16 points to go with 7 rebounds and 3 steals. "In practice we were ready to play and anxious from what happened last time. We just didn't want to have that same feeling we had."

The Maroons missed their first 17 attempts from 3-point range. Overall, they shot 27 percent from the field (17 of 62) and 21 percent from distance (5 of 24).

"One team came out to play and the other one didn't," Elgin coach Mike Sitter said. "You're not going to fight back from that, especially against a team as good as Larkin. If there's not a lesson learned, then that's on us."

The Royals overcame 21 turnovers by shooting 60 percent from the field (30 of 51). Defensively, they limited Elgin to 8 points in the first quarter, 8 in the second and 10 in the third.

"We talked about it being a rivalry game and you couldn't let the emotion of the atmosphere get to you," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "We just had to play Larkin basketball. We didn't feel like we did the first time we played these guys. The locker room feels a lot better than the first time we played them. We've got a mature group. They know they brought it today so we're proud of them, for sure."

Elgin's Dan Toolsie led all scorers with 29 points in a losing cause. No other Maroons scored more than Trey Yarber's 6 points.

Shaw finished with 13 points and 14 rebounds for Larkin. Junior guard Christopher Rose, making his first start in place of Pierre Black, who missed two days of practice during the week due to the flu, scored 10 points and Victor Perez added 9 points.

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Larkin's free throws sink Elgin

BY ALLEN OSHINSKI



Larkin's Brianna Young drives between Elgin's Makenna Downing and Kylie Graves Friday in a basketball game at Larkin High School. John Starks | Staff Photographer

Larkin's 1-pointers were better than Elgin's 3-pointers.

The Maroons and Royals combined for 30 field goals and 49 fouls Friday night. And while only making 14 field goals, the Royals were able to take advantage of Elgin's fouls by making 25 free throws, resulting in a 56-46 girls basketball win over their crosstown rivals.

The Upstate Eight River triumph at home avenged last week's loss to the Maroons in the Elgin City Classic.

Larkin scored 15 of its 17 fourth-quarter points from the foul line in holding off an Elgin rally led by Kamiya Harvey. Harvey hit three 3-pointers in the period, each one bringing the Maroons within 10 points.

But each time the Royals answered with free throws to maintain a comfortable lead. Haley Bohne led the Royals' free-throw parade, making 5 of 8 in the final period.

Overall, the Royals (4-18, 2-5) made 25 of 39 from the line for the game.

Larkin coach Steve Knapp was happy with the effort, but noted that the Royals still have some things to work on, like quick shots while nursing a double-digit lead.

"We've got to knock down some free throws, and be a little bit smarter on offense," he said. "We've got to slow it down, run some clock. This could be the last time these seniors ever play them, so it's good to get a win, especially at home."

Btrianna Young led the Royals with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Bohne and Aalliyah Dixon added 10 apiece for Larkin.

Dajha Cooper had 18 points and 18 rebounds for Elgin (4-19, 0-8). Harvey scored 12 of her 16 in the fourth quarter and Kylie Graves added 9 points and 8 rebounds for Elgin.

"I thought defensive rebounding in the first half hurt us, they had too many second-chance points," said Elgin coach Dr. Nick Bumbales. "The physicality of the game hurt us a little bit, but some kids had some great games. Cooper, Harvey, Graves, all played really well. (Makenna) Downing did a great job on Young. Graves did a great job on her too. It just wasn't to be."

Elgin was whistled for 26 fouls to 23 for Larkin. But the Maroons couldn't take advantage of Larkin's fouls, making just 11 of 25 free throws. Led by Cooper, Elgin outrebounded the home team 40-32 and held the Royals to 28 percent shooting.

Elgin raced out to a 5-0 lead, but Larkin answered with a 15-2 run to take the lead for good.