

Press Clippings 1/26/2018

---Courier News--- 1/26/18

Statistics: Student discipline disparity

African-American suspended at much higher rate in U46

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

Black students at School District U46 are disciplined at a disproportionately higher rate than other racial or ethnic groups, new data show.

African-American students make up about 6 percent of U46's 39,000-plus enrollment but received about 26 percent of all out-of-school suspensions in the 2016-17 school year, according to statistics presented to the U46 school board Monday.

"We are seeing sustained use of discipline that is disproportionate for African-American students," said John Heiderscheidt, the district's director of safety and culture. "When we look at this situation and we look at what's happening in our schools, can we change and get in front of this instead of keep responding to it?"

Numbers also show that of the more than 2,500 black students in U46, about 51 percent received some type of disciplinary referral during the last school year, Heiderscheidt said. By comparison, just under 24 percent of all Latino students — the largest bloc of U46 students — were issued a referral.

Board member Traci O'Neal Ellis, who requested information on disciplinary cases in November, said she was unnerved by the findings. The data mirrors national statistics showing a growing gap between demographic groups in schools.

"We shouldn't shy away from calling a thing a thing and acknowledging we have data, we have achievement gaps, we have opportunity gaps, we know who these children are in this district," O'Neal Ellis said.

Overall, the number of students receiving out-of-school suspensions districtwide jumped from a record low total of 874 in 2015-16 to 1,009 in 2016-17, Heiderscheidt said. However, last year's number is still lower than it was in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years.

The number of students receiving disciplinary referrals also went up last year compared to 2015-16 — from 8,802 referrals to 8,883, Heiderscheidt said. Much like with out-of-school suspensions, referrals are also lower than in years past.

O'Neal Ellis said she appreciated the presentation and the information provided as well as the district's work toward "cultural competency," but questioned why there were no numbers on expulsions included in the data.

The board also discussed issues of school discipline and safety, including such topics as bullying, safety projects and professional development, in relation to U46 equity. Administrators presented

information on efforts to comply with state law on implicit racial bias training and how to better support students from all demographic groups.

Assistant Superintendent Ron Raglin said more than 1,200 people have attended one of the district's equity training sessions over the past few years. Teachers are also getting two days of professional development at the beginning of next school year on the subject, which will be embedded into monthly data dialogue meetings.

"I want to make sure that we're not losing sight of the fact that this just isn't about discipline or suspensions or referrals," board member Melissa Owens said. "We've been talking for a long time about the achievement gap," and the district needs to look at all of the issues that affect it, such as income status and homelessness.

---Daily Herald--- 1/26/18

U-46 recognizes credit union for supporting local schools

SUBMITTED BY SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46

Elgin Area School District U-46 is celebrating its valued partnership with the Kane County Teachers Credit Union by awarding it with the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Partner of the Year Award for 2017-18.

The district will recognize the credit union Thursday during the chamber's annual meeting and High Fives Awards Luncheon.

"The KCT Credit Union was founded by educators, and even though its membership has broadened greatly over the years, the organization remains devoted to supporting education and its employees to giving of their time and resources to benefit children," said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders. "We are proud to call the KCT Credit Union a true community partner that supports education not only in our district but also across the entire Fox Valley."

Chartered in 1937, KCT Credit Union was formed through the efforts of Martha Black, a teacher in the then-Elgin Public Schools District, and E. Earl McCoy, then the Kane County Superintendent of Schools.

The credit union has worked closely with U-46 staff on a number of projects over the years, including co-sponsoring the new teacher orientation that welcomes nearly 250 teachers to the district annually. The credit union has also contributed to the annual Superintendent's Scholarship program and sponsored the AVID Path training financial seminar & luncheon for more than 300 educators.

The credit union significantly contributes to the Alignment Collaborative for Education, which supports the district's strategic plan, by serving as a member of ACE's Operating Board and the educational pathways A-Team, offering valuable insight from an external partner viewpoint. The credit union staff, specifically Yvonne Irving, vice president community business development, donates numerous hours soliciting businesses and vendors to be a part of the district's annual curriculum and career expo, called Explore.

The credit union also serves as a part of the Dream Academy's Co-Op Advisory Council, supported the ABC Friday Flyover at Elgin High School and participated in the Reading Buddies program at Illinois Park Early Childhood Center.

Karla Jimenez, coordinator of Family & Community Engagement, will present Irving and the KCT Credit Union CEO Mike Lee with the award Thursday during the chamber's annual awards luncheon at the Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin. The event starts at 11:30 a.m.

"KCT is both honored and humbled to receive such recognition from a school district that does so much for our community," said Lee. "We feel privileged to have the opportunity to serve others and to live up to our motto of 'Building Stronger Communities Together.' Thank you School District U-46 for this award."

KCT Credit Union is a member-owned, nonprofit financial institution. Membership in the credit union is open to anyone who works for one of its Select Employee Groups (including a number of private schools, community colleges and districts including U-46) or lives in one of seven counties, including Kane, DuPage and western parts of Cook.

SPORTS SECTION

---Courier News--- 1/26/18

Boys Basketball: Jalen's Journey

Larkin's Shaw goes from playground basketball star to Division I prospect
BY PAUL JOHNSON

Senior center Jalen Shaw didn't grow up playing organized basketball.

As a kid, you could find Shaw with his friends on the playgrounds of Elgin.

Two things happened next. In eighth grade, he hit a growth spurt. Then, during his freshman year, he met Larkin coach Deryn Carter.

Shaw now has Division I offers in hand.

"I grew up playing street ball, outside all the time," Shaw said. "I didn't really play regular basketball. That wasn't my thing until Carter wanted to work with me. I think he saw the potential in me. I didn't really care for it too much.

"It hit me junior year that I could actually play basketball and could do it in my future. That's when I started liking it."

Naturally, Carter was intrigued when he first saw the tallest kid in the freshman class at Larkin. But the size wasn't just what initially drew Carter to Shaw.

"It was a series of things," Carter said. "Obviously, you saw the potential. You saw a kid who got into our program and liked the structure we were giving him. Some kids take to it, and some kids don't. He took to it.

“It took him a while to learn some things, and he’s still learning some things, but you could see something early in him.”

Once Shaw realized he had potential, he became committed to reaching it. He also credited the support of his mother, Lisa Stitts.

“My mom has been there for every game,” Shaw said. “I think there’s only been one (she missed), and that was in another state. I’m trying to do it for my mom. She’s been there every step of the way.”

Carter believes Shaw’s appreciation for his mother’s sacrifices has been a large part of his success. Coming up in the program behind Christian Negrón, who’s a freshman forward at Loyola, also has been an inspiration.

“I’d like to think that our program structure and him seeing kids in front of him have success and understanding that we were kind of grooming him for that played into it,” Carter said.

Shaw’s skills on the court are evolving game by game as he gains experience. Playing AAU has helped as well.

“He’s a baby as far as basketball is concerned,” Carter said. “People see 6-foot-10 and they see those flashes and they think, ‘Why is that not there all the time?’ You have to remind yourself that he’s only played two-and-a-half years.”

Already one of the top players in the Elgin area, Shaw has been gaining interest on the recruiting circuit as well. He has Division I offers from Manhattan, Southern Illinois and UIC and from several junior colleges.

Carter feels Shaw has the potential to be a star at the next level.

“Whoever gets him at the collegiate level, in two years they’re going to have a completely different type of basketball player,” Carter said. “The sky is definitely the limit. He’s 6-10. He’s long. He has good touch, good hands, good feet.

“I’m looking forward to seeing him in a couple years, but we have a couple more months to hone his skills and see what he has in March for us, too.”

Larkin (15-5, 7-0) faces two tough upcoming Upstate Eight River battles on the road at Geneva and Batavia in its quest to win the conference title. The Royals have goals beyond that, too.

“We have a long way to go,” Shaw said. “I’m excited for the rest of the season because we’re going to do better.”

---Daily Herald--- 1/26/18

Boys Basketball: Tompson's return just in time for Bartlett

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

The Bartlett boys basketball team could be tough to contend with down the stretch with leading scorer Ben Tompson back from injury.

Tompson was an all-Upstate Eight Valley and all-area pick a season ago when he averaged 16 points and led the Hawks in assists and steals.

The senior tore the anterior talofibular ligament in an ankle in a Dec. 2 game at Notre Dame and did not play again until last Friday in a loss at West Aurora. He scored 3 points the following night in a loss to Fremd.

Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said a team can go one of two ways when a star player goes down - into shock or the others can respond and step into new roles. Bartlett (10-9) went 9-3 in Tompson's absence because, Wolfsmith said, players like 6-foot-2 senior guard Tomas Vikonis and 6-3 junior guard Austin Gates, among others, made the adjustments necessary to win.

"I thought Tomas did a great job stepping up into new roles and really has played well," Wolfsmith said. "Austin Gates has really stepped up in that role as well as a leader. And I thought we played good team basketball. They came together as a team instead of fractured. Now the challenge is on us to get these kids incorporating him back into the game and what that means for us as a team."

Bartlett is assigned to the 22-team Glenbard East sectional and will host one of four regionals. The hope is to be clicking in time for the postseason. Last March in regional play, Bartlett defeated South Elgin and No. 2 seed St. Charles East before falling to host Larkin in the title game.

"After last year we kind of know what it's like to be in the postseason and have those down-to-the-wire games," Tompson said. "The thing for us now is to get focused on making a postseason run. I think with that experience we can make some noise in the playoffs. I know we're going to have a very tough regional. Even though our record isn't where we want it to be, I think we can definitely hang with some of those teams."

You're starting, kid: Larkin guard Chris Rose made the most of his first varsity start last Friday. The 5-foot-9 junior scored 10 points to help the Royals defeat rival Elgin 75-48.

Rose started in place of junior shooting guard Pierre Black, who played sparingly after recovering from flu symptoms that forced him to miss a couple of practices.

"Chris started because he earned it," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "There were a lot of guys we could have went to, but he's been playing his butt off in practice and it showed."

Black returned to the starting lineup Tuesday and drilled six 3-pointers and scored 20 points in a 70-67 loss at Willowbrook.

Still No. 1: Aurora Christian (17-0, 7-0 Northeastern Athletic) maintained the top ranking in Class 1A for the second straight week.

The Eagles dominated Tuesday's battle for first place in the NAC, a 67-37 win at Westminster Christian (14-5, 6-1). It was the sixth time this season they defeated an opponent by at least 28 points.

"We're very confident," said sophomore Will Wolfe, who scored a career-best 28 points against Westminster. "I don't know. We're on a roll. We can't lose. We go into every game thinking we're going to win."

On the charts: Burlington Central cracked the Class 3A poll this week for the first time this season.

Winners of 15 straight, Kishwaukee River Conference-leading Central (18-2, 5-0) prevailed 74-48 in a first-place showdown against Johnsburg on Tuesday.

Senior Zach Schutta led the way with 30 points, raising his scoring average to 18.7 ppg.

Three times the fun: The Minnesota Miracle wasn't the only crazy ending between teams nicknamed Saints and Vikings recently.

In case you missed it, the Geneva Vikings knocked off the St. Charles East Saints 88-84 in triple overtime last Friday.

Here are some added tidbits from the marathon thriller, courtesy of Daily Herald correspondent Craig Brueske, who was on the scene.

Geneva (14-7, 4-2) attempted 51 free throws and made 36, both season highs.

The Vikings made 14 of 20 free throws in the third overtime and scored their final 13 points from the line.

Four players from St. Charles East (10-7, 3-4) fouled out in the third overtime.

It wasn't settled until Geneva junior guard Jack McDonald -- who forced overtime with 2 fourth-quarter free throws with 22 seconds left that capped a 10-point rally -- made 9 of 10 from the line in the third extra session. He connected on 20 of 24 free-throw attempts overall.

"Give credit to McDonald for stepping to the line and knocking down the 50-plus free throws or whatever it was," Saints coach Patrick Woods said. "I know it was a lot."

McDonald is an 85-percent free-throw shooter (63 of 74).

"Once you see a few going in it's muscle memory," he said.